Air Force planes pound Sayyaf hideouts in Jolo

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

Catholics put on ashes today

By Armand N. Nocum

AS THE faithful pack the country's churches to have their foreheads marked with the sign of the cross traced in ashes, they are admonished to remember they are nothing but a handful of dust and "to dust thou shalt return."

Ash Wednesday today ushers in the

CATHOLICS/A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE
- PNOC finds gas in Tarlac BUSINESS / B7
- Erap can't go to court NEWS / A3
- Milosevic's trial opens WORLD / A11
- Banks hit for high rates BUSINESS / B1

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Wednesday, February 13, 2002 ★ 64 pages / 6 sections / vol.17 / no. 67 P15
website: www.inq7.net

2 issues delay TOR signing

Enrile raises plunder raps; Virata says JPE wrong

By Cynthia D. Balana and Clarissa S. Batino

FORMER Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile raised the stakes yesterday in the PEACe Bonds controversy surrounding Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, telling Senate probers that Camacho could be held liable for plunder.

But civil society leaders denounced Enrile as partisan, and former Prime Minister Cesar Virata said Enrile's computation of the deal's alleged tax liabilities was "a gross oversimplification."

The stock market, however, rose strongly for the second

ENRILE/A4

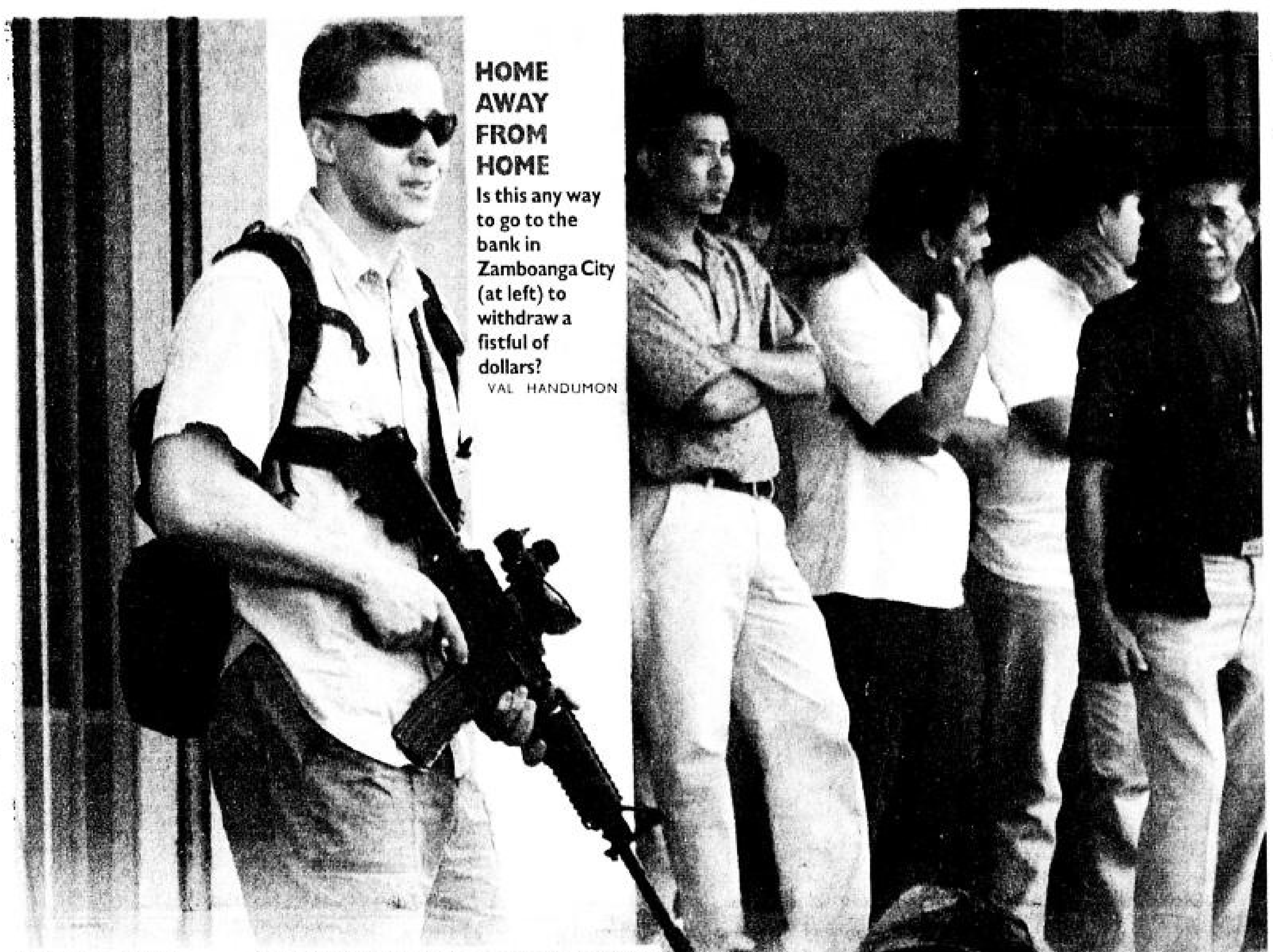
Showdown looms today on Ani's case

By Christine Avendaño

A SHOWDOWN looms today in the House of Representatives, as congressmen must decide on whether to vote on the first impeachment complaint against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto or give supporters of the second complaint more time to gather the 73 signatures needed to impeach Desierto.

House officials insisted yesterday that today is the House's last day for acting on the first complaint, but pro-impeachment congressmen said the House cannot force a vote because the 10-day period provided for in the new rules on impeachment were, in the

SHOWDOWN/A16



HOME AWAY FROM HOME Is this any way to go to the bank in Zamboanga City (at left) to withdraw a fistful of dollars?
VAL HANDUMON

FENCING off their part of the camp within the Southern Command, US soldiers(above) get busy with the barbed wires. (At right) Thumbs-up for security for the arrival of yet another US transport plane at the Edwin Andrews Air Force Base.

Powell snubs Guingona

By Carlito Pablo, Dona Pazzibugan and Christine Herrera

TWO ISSUES are delaying the signing of the terms of reference (TOR) that will govern the conduct of the RP-US military war exercises in Mindanao.

One is the "mission order" from the US military brass to its troops which will determine their conduct here, not the TOR.

Another is the possibility that US Secretary of State Collin Powell may not sign the TOR for the United States to the consternation of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. though he expressed "satisfaction" after his teleconference on the TOR with an assistant secretary of state.

A Cabinet source disclosed the two issues after Guingona discussed the TOR on the phone with Powell's subordinate, James Kelly, US Assistant Secretary of State for the Asia-Pacific. The TOR was supposed to be signed on Feb. 9.

The source, who asked not to be named, said visiting US military forces considered themselves only bound by the mission order from their superiors.

"They didn't expect the TOR which was suggested by our side," the source said. "For them, the exercise is already covered by the provisions of the VFA (Visiting Forces Agreement)."

President Macapagal-Arroyo said last week that previous Balikatan exercises did not require a TOR but that she insisted on one for the Balikatan 02-1.

2 ISSUES/A17

Loren makes Senate history: She's pregnant

FOR THE FIRST time in the history of the Philippine Senate, the stork will come visiting bearing a bundle of joy.

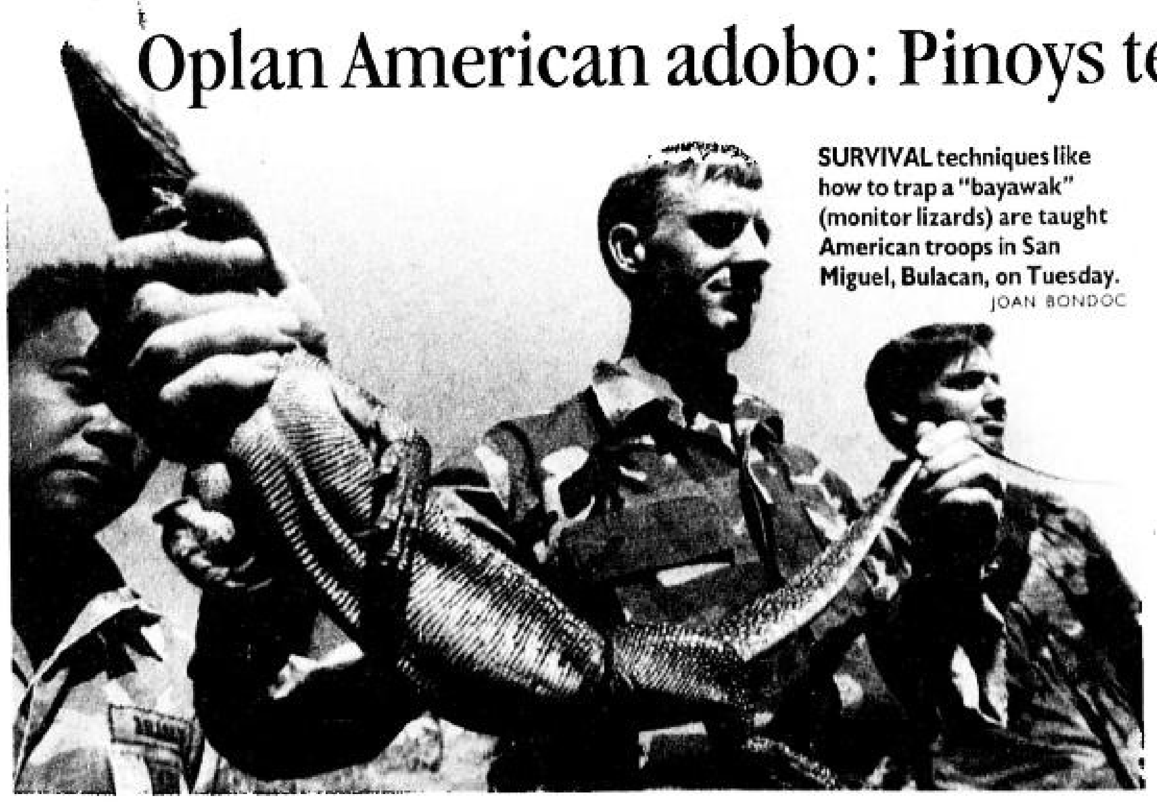
Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda-Leviste, 42, yesterday confirmed she was five weeks pregnant and would be expecting her third child in October.

The baby will be her and husband, former Batangas Gov. Antonio Leviste's third child after Lorenzo Antonio, 11, and Leandro Antonio, 8.

"I'm so grateful about this blessing," she said. "Women who conceive after 40 give birth to bright kids."

LOREN/A4

Oplan American adobo: Pinoys tell 'em how



SURVIVAL techniques like how to trap a "bayawak" (monitor lizards) are taught American troops in San Miguel, Bulacan, on Tuesday.
JOAN BONDOC

By Martin P. Marfil

CAMP TECSON, San Miguel, Bulacan—It wasn't *adobo*, but it was just as tasty.

Elite members of the US Army Special Forces yesterday literally got a "taste" of what living with just the basics was like when Filipino Scout Rangers trained them on jungle survival, including how to kill and eat snakes.

And the Americans just loved it.

"The snake was good, it tasted like chicken," said Maj. Kevin Colyer, leader of the American contingent.

But another American soldier commented: "It tastes like snake to me."

OPLAN/A16

Balikatan foes deliver note to US Embassy

By Philip C. Tubeza and Christine Herrera

AFTER weeks of trying to get near the US Embassy in Manila, protesters from the Peace Camp alliance finally got into the embassy yesterday afternoon and presented their manifesto against the RP-US war games in Mindanao.

At least five persons, led by former Sen. Wigberto Tañada, were allowed to pass through the embassy gates and step into what is technically US soil while some 500 Peace Camp protesters waited on Roxas Boulevard,

BALIKATAN/A16

Air Force planes pound Abu hideouts

By Martin P. Marfil

PHILIPPINE Air Force planes yesterday pounded Abu Sayyaf hideouts on Jolo Island, raising to 20 the number of bandits killed in three days of fighting.

Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta Jr., Army spokesperson, said that at least 10 bandits were killed when two OV-10 planes and an MG-520 attack helicopter dropped bombs about 6:40 a.m. on the Abu Sayyaf mountain camps near the towns of Indanan and Patikul.

"The assessment that the Southern Command gave us is that about 10 (bandits) were killed," Mabanta said.

He said the air strikes were followed by mortar fire from Army soldiers that later advanced toward the Abu Sayyaf lairs where about 100 heavily armed bandits were believed holed up.

The air strikes were aimed at the Abu Sayyaf group led by Ghalib Andang, alias Commander Robot, and Mujib Susukan.

Andang and Susukan gained international notoriety two years ago when their group raided the Malaysian dive resort in Sipadan and kidnapped 21 mostly foreign hostages. They later freed the hostages in batches after receiving millions of dollars in ransom.

The military has shifted the focus of its counter-terrorism campaign from Basilan to Jolo following a series of fierce clashes between government troops and Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Ten bandits were killed in a firefight with Army soldiers on Sunday. Six soldiers, including a lieutenant, were killed on Fri-

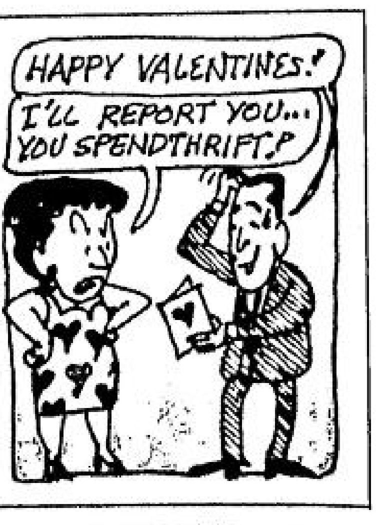
AIR/A16

Ex-lovers use taxman to get even

SINGAPORE—The Singapore government is rolling in money as disgruntled wives, dumped lovers and others with a grudge to bear are being paid to squeal on tax cheats.

The campaign to snitch on

EX-LOVERS/A4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Second FRONT PAGE

NAKU... HINDI PA RIN!

Comelec now preparing for barangay, youth polls

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE COMMISSION on Elections yesterday said it was preparing for the barangay and youth elections scheduled in May even as Congress paves the way for the postponement of the polls.

Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo formed the other day a special committee to come up with "key strategies" that will guide the Comelec's preparations for the elections amid the confusion in Congress.

Comelec information chief Jose Tolentino Jr. said the Comelec was caught in a very awkward situation because it was still awaiting the decision of Congress, which has yet to make up its mind.

Tolentino noted that the Comelec has less than three months to embark on a full campaign for the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan polls.

"That's the difficulty. If we don't prepare for May, we will be caught flat-footed when they decide to push through with the elections," Tolentino said in an interview at his office yesterday.

"But if we prepare for May and they decide to postpone, we will be wasting resources. We will be spending a lot of money for the preparations," he added.

Tolentino said the Comelec would wait until the end of this month to see if a counterpart bill seeking the deferment of the polls would be drafted and discussed by the Senate.

The House of Representatives is already working for a "synchronized elections" that would be held in November, a move that has gained the support of both the majority and minority blocs.

"We are tasked to prepare as if there will be no postponement, but we have to do it in a way that we will not waste resources," said Tolentino, who is a member of the special committee.

He said the Comelec could lose "millions of pesos" if it proceeds with the printing of the list of registered voters now and other non-accountable materials.

CA hearings on Alvarez suspended

By Rocky Nazareno

THE TRANSPORTATION committee of the congressional Commission on Appointments yesterday suspended confirmation hearings on Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, asking Alvarez to submit copies of the contract and other documents relating to the government's contract with the Philippine International Air Terminal Corp.

Alvarez's confirmation has been stalled for months over charges that he personally benefited from the contract for Piatco to build the Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

In a prepared statement which he read before the committee yesterday, Alvarez dismissed the claims of his opponents as "baseless arguments and innuendos."

Alvarez stressed that the Piatco contract was signed and amended long before he became transportation secretary.

He also noted that the supplements made to the Piatco contract were also undertaken months before he was appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Alvarez also clarified that the DOTC would work for the abrogation of an "exclusivity clause" in the Piatco deal which critics said was "detrimental" to the development of the former Clark International Airport, now known as Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA).

"It is not true that the DOTC is stifling the progress of Clark," Alvarez said, pointing out that while the development of DMIA was under the Clark Development Corp., the DOTC has helped in deploying flights to and from Clark.

One such flight would be the Macau-Clark flight after the DOTC and the Special Administrative Region of Macau agreed that Clark be specified as a designation in the negotiations for additional flight frequencies to Macau.

Alvarez also allayed the fears of the labor sector that jobs would be lost when Terminal 3 starts operating by the end of the year.

While the present international passenger terminal already generates employment for 20,000 people, the Naia 3, which is three times larger, would "definitely make more jobs available," Alvarez said.

Addressing charges of conflict of interest because his wife was involved in Wintrack Builders which undertook the earthworks activities for Naia 3, Alvarez said Wintrack had been a mere subcontractor of Takenaka Corp. which obtained the contract for the earthworks project.

"What Wintrack sold to Takenaka and Piatco was labor—the hauling and removal of earth and subterranean structures," he said.

Alvarez also told the committee that the basis of the complaint filed by the MIAA-Naia Association of Service Operators (Maso) with the Ombudsman was an affidavit signed by a certain Venner Mendoza who has since denied having authored or executed the affidavit.

Alvarez said Mendoza has even admitted that Maso official Ben Lorenzo "offered him money if he agreed to become a witness and that a prepared statement was sent to him."

Meanwhile, a labor leader yesterday denied reports that his organization, the National Federation of Labor Unions (Naflu), was part of a group calling itself the Malayang Kilusan ng Samahang Manggagawa, or Makisama.

Makisama earlier accused "sinister forces" of trying to derail a symposium proposed by Alvarez to deal with the concerns of airport and aviation industry workers who fear that they would lose their jobs when the Naia 3 opens.

In a letter to the INQUIRER, Naflu president Felicisimo Carullo said his group continued to support the "Scrap the Piatco Deal Coalition" which is seeking to abrogate the contract awarding to Piatco the exclusive right to operate the new passenger terminal.

Carullo charged that the Alvarez camp "does not have the discretion to claim that the coalition is derailing any attempts at solving the problems of the aviation industry."

"Real and genuine dialogue is necessary, not one that is only being used by those with vested interests," Carullo said.

Feb. 25 is a holiday

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has declared Feb. 25, a Monday, a special national holiday to mark the 16th anniversary of People Power 1.

President Macapagal issued Proclamation No. 151 to afford the people "full opportunity to honor the memory of the Edsa People Power Revolution."

Now known as Edsa 1, the first People Power toppled the Marcos dictatorship and restored democracy to the country in February 1986.

President Macapagal will open the four-day celebration for Edsa 1 starting Feb. 22 with a wreath laying at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Makati.

After the rites, she will have a fellowship breakfast with the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police.

A People's Day will be held at the People Power Monument along Edsa on Feb. 25.

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Erap can't make it to new arraignment today

By Volt Contreras

JOSEPH Estrada's recent eye surgery provided a new excuse for the ex-president not to show up in court today for his twin arraignment for perjury and illegal use of alias.

His lawyers yesterday filed a motion asking the special Sandiganbayan division to excuse him from the 9 a.m. proceedings, citing his eye doctor's advice.

The court, however, was unable to act on the motion as of closing time at 4:30 p.m. A court official explained that an arraignment is most likely to be postponed if the accused is unable to appear.

Told of the pleading, public prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio quipped: "Maybe it's not only the eye but the No. 13," referring to the date of the arraignment.

He was apparently referring to the former president's aversion to the so-called unlucky number, which has had repeatedly figured in events marking Estrada's downfall, like his Nov. 13, 2000, impeachment at the House and the 13-0 Supreme Court vote upholding the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration. He had also refused to refer to himself as the 13th president of the republic.

Villa-Ignacio said a postponement can be expected if the court was given a valid reason for Estrada's non-appearance.

The Philippine National Police received the court's order as early as last week to bring Estrada to court this morning from his detention site at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

Already detained for the non-bailable charge of plunder, the ousted president is the lone accused in the perjury and "alias" cases.

Under police escort, Estrada had a cataract removed from his right eye last Sunday at the Asian Eye Institute at the upscale Rockwell commercial center in Makati City.

Yesterday's motion presented the Feb. 11 letter to the Sandiganbayan by AEI ophthalmologist Amadeo Veloso, which partly read:

"To ensure a safe recovery, I have advised the patient to rest and to refrain from any strenuous physical and outdoor activities for at least one week."

In mid-December last year, Estrada, 64, had a cataract removed from his left eye, also at the AEI.

Estrada lawyers, meanwhile, are still undecided on how they will defend in open court their client's long-time request to have his arthritic knees treated in the US.

Jay Flaminiano, one of the defense counsels, said they are considering either presenting "local experts" or Filipino doctors in court, or just take the deposition of Dr. Christopher Mow, the American bone surgeon tapped to operate on Estrada.

The Sandiganbayan has set a separate hearing on the issue on Feb. 22.

Nur courthouse almost finished

A SPECIAL courthouse being constructed for the trial of detained Moro rebel leader Nur Misuari in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, will be completed two days ahead of schedule, a police official said yesterday.

The court, built inside Fort Sto. Domingo, a police training camp in Sta. Rosa, will be finished Thursday, said Director Lucas Managuelod, head of the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management.

"Except for the air-conditioning unit that has yet to be installed, the courthouse is almost finished. It will be finished by Thursday," he told reporters.

The police had earlier set a Feb. 16 deadline for its completion.

The Supreme Court has granted the justice department's request to transfer Misuari's trial from Jolo, Sulu to Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, and has ordered the national police to construct a courthouse for the trial.

Misuari has been detained at Fort Sto. Domingo since he was deported from Malaysia early last month.

He is facing charges of rebellion for allegedly ordering armed supporters to attack military outposts in Jolo in a bid to stop the holding of the elections of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in November last year.

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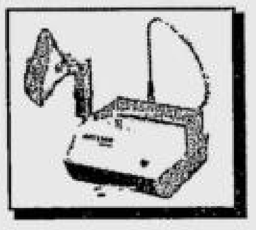

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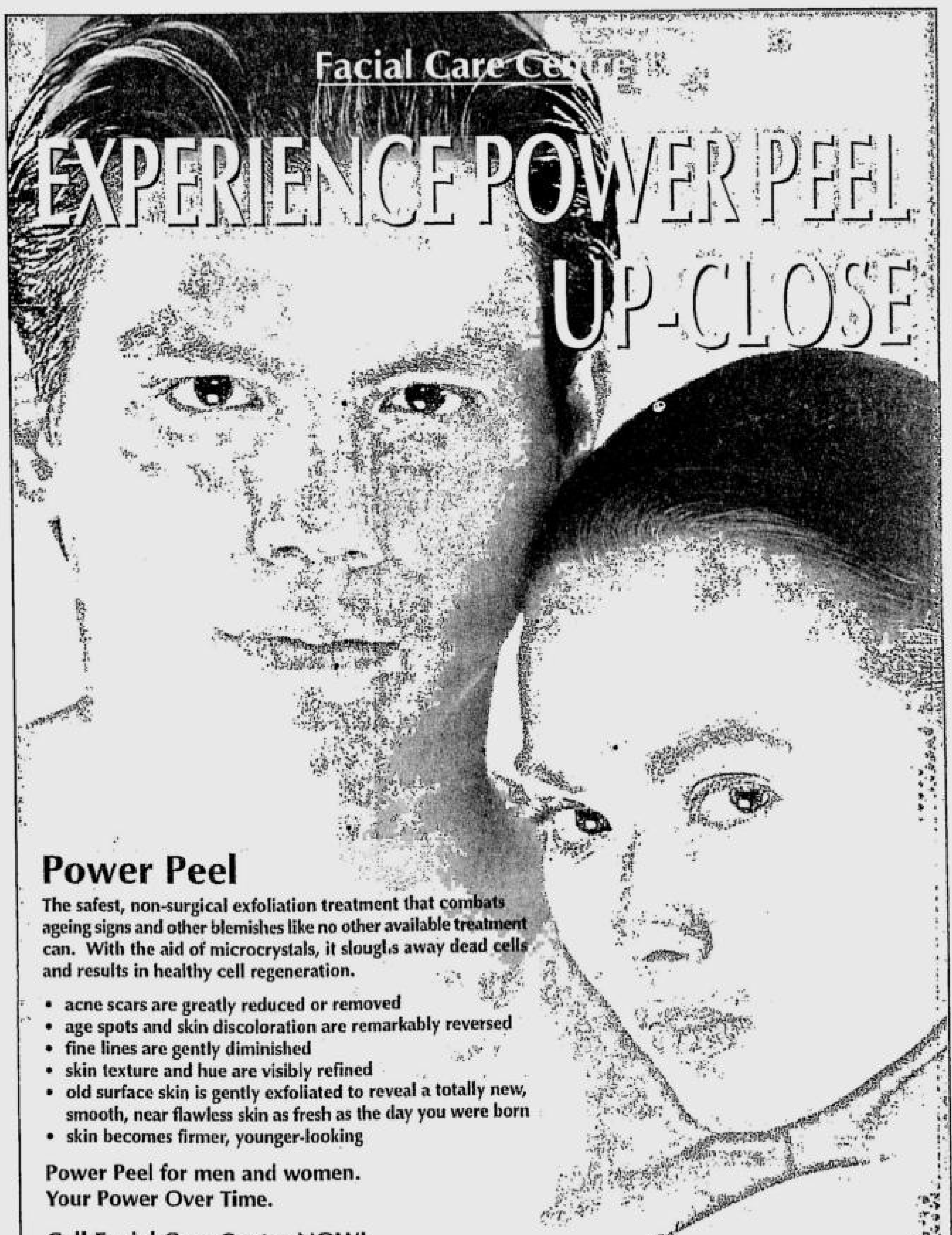

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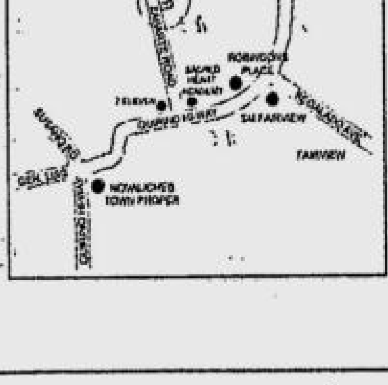

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Ex-lovers use taxman to get even

From page A1

tax evaders recovered S$56 million (US$30.5 million) last year, a 75-percent increase on the S$32 million recovered the previous year, the Straits Times reported Tuesday.

There is no shortage of squealers, with the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (Iras) receiving up to 15 letters a day.

Wives, former mistresses, neighbors and even people fed up with their children's tutors are among the informers.

Financial rewards are determined by the value of the information although there is no set scale.

Deputy Revenue Commissioner for Investigation Goh Khee Kuan said people who tell on suspected tax cheats had "various motives."

Goh said the most handsome reward so far had been "a few thousand dollars." *AFP*

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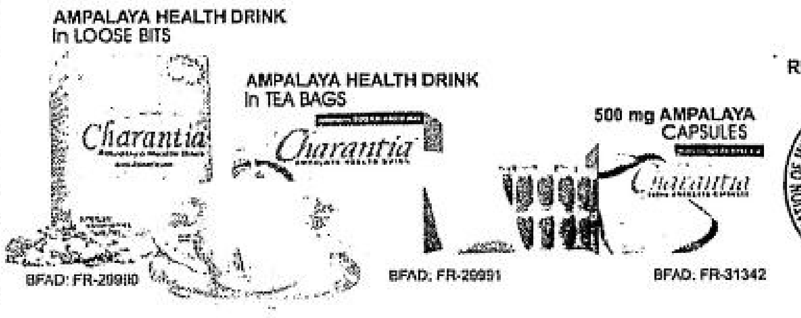

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Enrile raises plunder raps; Virata says JPE got it wrong

From page A1

straight day as investors continued to accumulate select issues, encouraged by the progress Camacho made in his bid to be confirmed, traders said.

On Monday, a crucial committee of the Commission on Appointments endorsed Camacho, traditionally a sign that confirmation by the full CA was forthcoming.

Nine minority senators walked out of the Senate session hall on Monday night to protest what they said was the majority's "railroading" of Camacho's confirmation.

In an impromptu news conference, President Macapagal-Arroyo denied she had put pressure on CA members on Camacho's behalf.

"Let me tell you. I didn't really work that hard for Lito Camacho. I mean, he did his own advocacy," she said.

"You know many of the CA congressmen were telling me they were being asked, 'Did Malacañang call you? Did the President talk to you.' They said no," she added.

But at the Senate finance committee hearing on the bonds, Enrile said Camacho could be held liable for plunder for allowing the "raid on the treasury" by CODE-NGO, a network of nongovernment organizations headed by his sister which conceptualized the issuance of zero-coupon bonds and earned P1.4 billion tax-free.

Enrile, one of the 11 senators who voted in January 2001 to keep the second Jose Velarde envelope unopened during the Estrada impeachment trial, was invited as an expert witness, in his capacity as a tax lawyer, a former Department of Finance official and a coauthor of the Internal Revenue Code.

Enrile said the bond issuance was a "sham transaction" by CODE-NGO, which is headed by Marissa Camacho-Reyes, because it had no business purpose whatsoever in the auction of the zero-coupon (or interest-free) debt instruments.

He said CODE-NGO profited heavily while leaving Filipino taxpayers a tax burden of P35 billion, to be paid by 2011.

He added that the bonds were highly irregular because it was the bidder, in this case CODE-NGO, which designed the rules governing the transaction.

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, who cast the lone vote against Camacho on Monday, said that Enrile's statements validated her position on the issue.

But in a phone interview, Camacho denied there was anything irregular in the first place.

"The issuance of the zero coupon bonds was part of our borrowing program for last year. When the government borrows, it naturally pays out an interest and anybody who receives it gets money from the government. There is nothing irregular in what we did with the zero coupon bonds," Camacho said.

Other members of civil society took committee chair Sen. John Osmeña to task for inviting Enrile, however.

"Enrile is saying that the deal is a sham. (But) the sham is not the transaction but the process of the Senate committee. Enrile should be the last person to be called in as an expert witness because he is partisan," said Bobbit Librojo, secretary general of the Social Democratic Caucus.

The executive director of the People's Alternative Studies Center for Research Education and Social Development, Rey Calfoforo, charged that the Senate opposition was only using the controversy to get back at members of civil society who joined Edsa II.

"This is just an opposition ploy to avenge because of what we have done when they voted No to the opening of the second envelope," Calfoforo said.

Together with Enrile, Osmeña and Oreta had voted against the opening of the second Velarde envelope, the event which triggered People Power II and ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Sen. Blas Ople, who abstained during the committee vote on Monday, also voted to keep the second envelope sealed.

Evelyn Kilayco, a prominent member of Konsensyang Pilipino, denounced the Senate inquiry for undermining the efforts of CODE-NGO.

"They are making it appear that CODE-NGO is a villain when in fact this group should be lauded for raising private funds to address the needs of the basic sector," Kilayco said.

Librojo also slammed the Senate finance committee for "inhibiting" both CODE-NGO and RCBC, its dealer and underwriter in the auction, from presenting witnesses.

Tax exemption

Enrile said the huge revenue losses which he said were incurred by the government could have been avoided had the DOF exercised its full powers over the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which granted a 20-percent tax exemption to buyers of the PEACe bonds.

He added that if there were doubts about the exemption, it was a strictly held principle that the decision must favor the government.

Accordingly, he said, the tax exemption granted to CODE-NGO and RCBC led to revenue losses for the government which he estimated at P5 billion.

Enrile was emphatic in saying that those responsible for the deal should be held liable for plunder because of the enormity of the amount involved in this anomaly.

He said that Camacho did not exert any effort to protect the interests of the state and merely allowed CODE-NGO to be the "receptacle" of the benefits accrued from the sale of the PEACe bonds.

He also questioned the way the bonds were designed and how CODE-NGO fixed the terms of the deal to ensure that it got a P1.8-billion windfall (less the fees for RCBC) without shelling out a single centavo.

Osmeña said that the charge of plunder should extend to Camacho's sister, the head of the Bureau of Treasury and officials of CODE-NGO and RCBC.

But in a press briefing, Virata, the acting chief executive officer of RCBC, said Enrile's computation of the bank's income tax liabilities was erroneous.

"As for the alleged tax liabilities on the (PEACe Bonds) held by RCBC, the computations mentioned in the Senate hearing is a gross oversimplification and fails to consider that the corporate tax rate . . . has always been . . . computed on net corporate income and not on gross income alone," Virata, who also issued a statement, said.

"Any alleged corporate income tax liabilities on the zeroes, properly computed, will not only be substantially lower than conclusions being made but will also be paid out over 10 years," he added.

He also said that the hearing itself "confirmed that . . . gains arising from the sale, or exchange or retirement of the zeroes are excluded from the computation of gross income and hence exempt from income taxation.

Stock market

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index yesterday ended up 16.45 points, or 1.2 percent, at 1,382.41, following Monday's 1.6-percent gain.

Investors also pushed up share prices to greet the Chinese New Year, in the hope of bringing good luck to the market, traders said.

"If there's any period that we're certain the market would move up, it's the day the Chinese New Year is celebrated," said Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas.

Investors also showed their support for the embattled Camacho by putting more funds into the stock market, said Roxas.

Efforts by opposition politicians to block Camacho's confirmation has worried investors, who view him as one of the key government members who have steered the country's economy toward recovery.

Oreta, the key opposition senator handling the issue, received an apology from administration Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., who apologized to her and to the entire Senate for decrying on Monday what he called the "political hanky-panky" of the PEACe Bonds issue.

Rising on personal privilege, Magsaysay insisted that his statement that reputations of people were being besmirched and that people's confidence on the government had been eroded due to "political hanky panky" was not meant to embarrass Oreta and his colleagues in the Senate.

Magsaysay stood after Oreta delivered a terse privilege speech condemning the "kangaroo court" that was the CA for "railroading" the confirmation of Camacho despite her intense questioning and Magsaysay's "ungentlemanly" remarks about Oreta.

"What happened yesterday was a clear travesty," a fuming Oreta said. "Obviously the chairman of the finance committee of the Commission on Appointments has chosen to malign its integrity and reputation by converting it into a kangaroo committee tasked to railroad Camacho's confirmation," she added.

Oreta was referring to Sen. Ralph Recto, who proceeded with the CA executive session for the vote on Camacho's confirmation even when the Senate was already holding its plenary session.

Recto said it was unfair for Oreta to charge the CA as a kangaroo committee since it had held four hearings on the Camacho confirmation.

Sen. Robert Barbers said he merely reiterated his motion to confirm Camacho which prompted the CA to hold the executive session and conduct the voting.

"In fact, the committee allowed Senator Oreta to question (Camacho) for two hours," he said.

At the end of the privilege hour, Magsaysay went to Oreta and Sen. Edgardo Angara and shook hands with them as a gesture of peace.

Reached for comment, Camacho admitted he was hurting from the accusations hurled against him and would appear at the Commission on Appointments today without any expectations.

"All these things hurt me. It's really very painful but I carry on with the support I've been getting. Plus I know I've been doing a good job and can do much more," he said.

Camacho is scheduled to face the full CA today.

"I really do not know what to expect," he said.

He said he was prepared "to accept as part of the process" any decision to defer his appointment, following reports that opposition senators led by Tessie Aquino-Oreta would invoke Section 20 to possibly reverse or at least delay his confirmation. ***With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, AP***

Loren makes Senate history . . .

From page A1

"The doctor just told me to take it easy for these first three months," she told the INQUIRER.

Legarda-Leviste also said the physician ordered that she refrain from traveling abroad but did not tell her to take time off from her job as Senate majority leader.

"I'll just keep on working," the former ABS-CBN television personality said.

Legarda-Leviste said the conception of her third child was "merely accidental."

According to her, she and her husband had been practicing the Catholic Church-approved rhythm method in planning their family. But she had to undergo fertility treatments to conceive her eldest son.

"So that's why I find this latest happening as a complete blessing," Legarda-Leviste said.

The Levistes will not only have a new child but a new home. In September, they are moving from their penthouse condominium to a newly refurbished home in North Forbes, Makati City. Legarda-Leviste purchased the house from singer Leah Navarro.

She is excited at the idea that her growing family would be spending their first Christmas there this year.

Legarda-Leviste is the first-ever sitting senator to give birth while in office.

Catholics put on ashes today

From page A1

40-day Lenten season which culminates on Easter Sunday. This year Easter falls on March 31.

For the duration of the penitential season, President Macapagal-Arroyo is admonished to "fast from making pro-American pronouncements for the next 40 days," said Fr. Robert Reyes, who has gained prominence for running for a cause earning him the sobriquet of "running priest."

According to him, such statements only serve to "reveal the kind of Filipino she is and challenge the kind of Filipinos we are."

Reyes, who has been vocal against the presence of US military forces in Basilan, also asked the people to be "self-critical of ourselves, of our country," saying God wants real changes in people, not "lip-service."

"The liturgy calls for the (Mass) celebrant (the priest) to say these words as he places ashes on the foreheads of the faithful: Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel," according to Msgr. Pedro Quitorio III, spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Dirty

"To be able to rise, we have to die," Quitorio said of today's religious observance.

Quitorio said the ash meant "we are dirty and are sinners."

The ashes come from the palm fronds blessed from last year's Palm Sunday, which commemorates the triumphant entry of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem prior to his arrest, agonizing torture and death on the cross.

From reflections on our sinfulness, Quitorio said this day would bring us the message that "we are receptive to God's love."

According to him, the "dawning of the symbol of the ashes" calls for penance, alms-giving and prayer.

In a statement, the CBCP Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People (CBCP-ECMI) said the Lenten Season was an occasion for people "to make some penance, to seek forgiveness and to walk on the way to conversion."

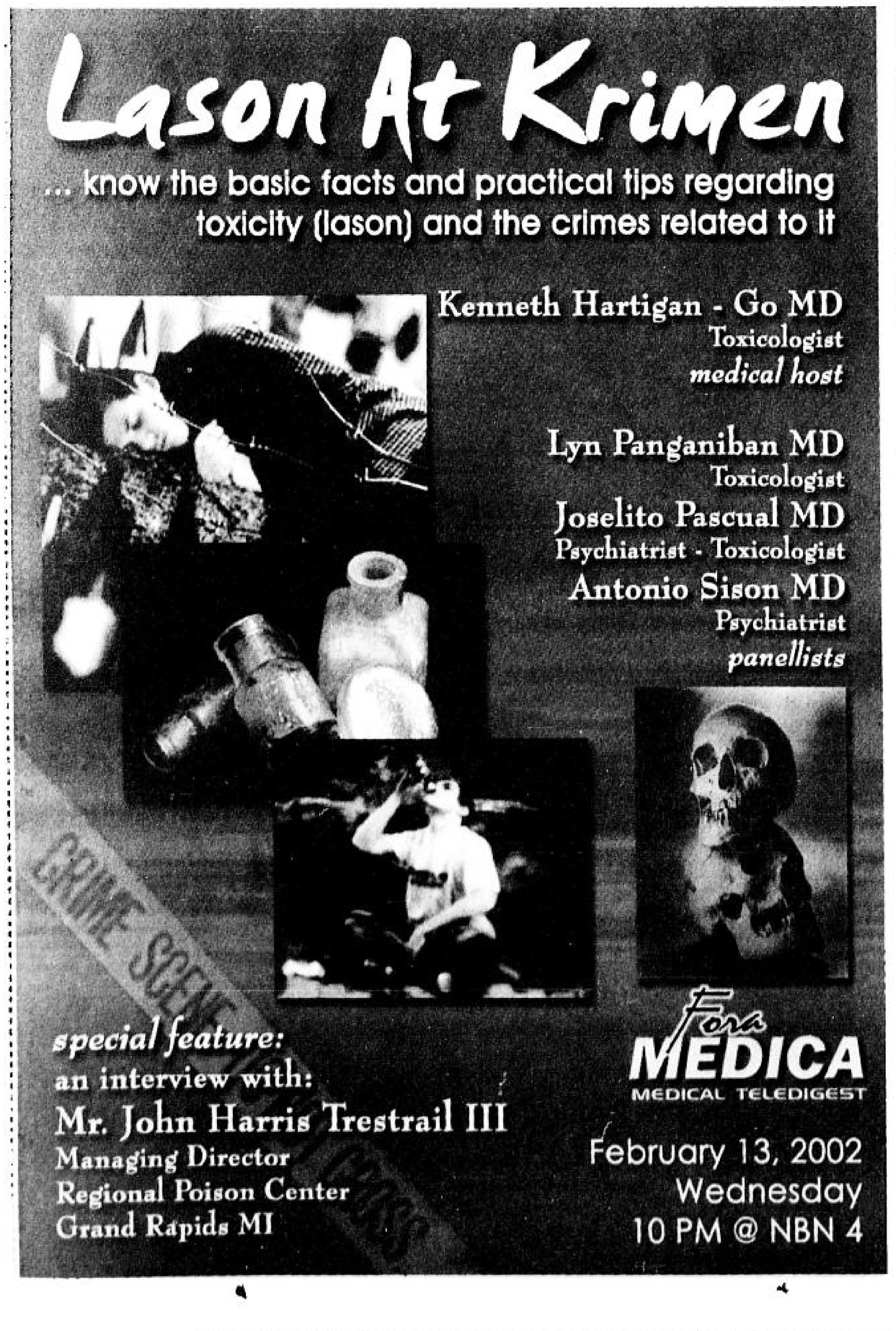
Temptations

The CBCP-ECMI specially cautions the faithful from falling into the "temptations faced by all human beings: money, power, glory."

"Isn't this a time to work for the transformation of the pains, sufferings and anxieties into an Easter time of joys and hope?" the CBCP-ECMI said.

The Church enjoins those between 18 and 60 years old to abstain from meat and to fast by only taking one full meal today.

Those under 14 years old are obliged to refrain from eating meat. Abstinence from meat is observed on all Fridays of Lent



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Benedick's not-so-silent world

By Kris Lanot Lacaba
Contributor

IN FRONT of visitors, Benedick Muyong is a shy and quiet 9-year-old. He answers questions by means of sign language, which are interpreted for us by his Aunt Divina. Asked what his favorite school subject is, Benedick gives the hand gestures for "mathematics and physical education."

He lives in a single room of a two-story house in La Loma, Quezon City, that he shares with his paternal aunts, Divina and Maricor Muyong. Some of the other tenants have learned very basic sign language and are able to exchange pleasantries with Benedick.

While Benedick is putting on his shoes to go to school, a woman neighbor signs, "How are things between you and M.?" Benedick takes the teasing in stride, brings his fists together and then jerks them apart, "She's not my girlfriend."

Benedick's father died of kidney failure three years ago at the age of 32. His mother has started a new family. They used to live in crowded Sampaloc where Benedick had plenty of friends to play with on the streets. But the commute to school at the Philippine School for the Deaf (PSD) in Pasay City was difficult.

After their move to La Loma, Aunt Divina and Benedick only have to take a single hour-long jeepney ride to school. Divina takes care of Benedick full-time. Maricor walks to work from their La Loma home.

Benedick's deafness resulted from his mother contracting measles while she was pregnant. He was diagnosed as having "bilateral profound sensori-neural hearing loss" from birth. It means that he hears little of anything that makes less noise than an airplane taking off.

BENEDICK gesturing to Aunt Divina.

Benedick is a second grader at the PSD where he has been studying since kindergarten. He plans to take up computer programming.

In addition to the regular curriculum, Benedick undergoes speech therapy at the PSD. Getting a hearing aid would help a lot. His normal hearing may even be restored with the proper hearing aid model. The recommended models—Phonak Classica PPCLP and the Phonak SFPPCL4—are beyond the family's means. A pair costs between P38,000 to 48,000.

Benedick's mother has sought the help of the Bantay Bata 163 in 1999. Benedick's case has been featured in television plugs but the BB163, which is celebrating its fifth anniversary this month, is hard-pressed to find a donor for him.

The BB163 is not giving up hope: the plugs continue to be aired on local and international television.

On the morning that we called Divina to set up the interview, Benedick signs enthusiastically: "Who's on the phone? Has someone given hearing aids already?"

With his friends, Benedick talks with his entire body. He signs with his hands and arms. He expresses emotions with his eyes and mouth. He catches his friends' attention by stomping on the floor. Here, he shows no hint of shyness. Benedick may not be able to hear yet, but his world is by no means silent.

Integration of Islamic schools eyed by Gloria

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is calling for the integration of the "*madrasah*" or the Arabic school network into the country's national educational system.

President Macapagal said this assimilation will foster religious understanding in the predominantly Muslim areas in Mindanao.

The *madrasah* is the Arabic term for a privately-owned but community-based school, which teaches Arabic and the teachings of Islam.

Muslims attend classes there free of charges.

The integration of the *madrasah* schools will be undertaken through the Education for Peace and Development in Mindanao program, according to an official Malacañang statement.

The program will be implemented by the Office of the President, the Presidential Assistant for Education, the Commission on Higher Education, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Mona Valisno, presidential assistant for education, said the curriculum of the *madrasah* schools will be enriched and harmonized to make it compatible with the curriculum of the country's formal educational system.

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Rosebud takes on anti-crime advocate

By TJ Burgonio and Jerome Aning

ANTI-DRUGS crusader Mary "Rosebud" Ong yesterday accused another anti-crime advocate, Teresita Ang-See, of letting herself be used by opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson to attack Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza.

Ong said Ang-See's objection to the extension of Mendoza's term may have stemmed from her allegedly benefiting from Lacson's "flowing drug money."

"I've never heard her say a word against Ping Lacson. So many police officers have come out to testify against Lacson but she has never said a word against him. As a crusader, she could at least have said that he should be investigated," Ong said at a press conference.

She said drug money has already seeped into the system that it can control a lot of people, including Ang-See, who heads the Citizen's Action Against Crime.

Ong, a former civilian narcotics agent who testified on Lacson's alleged drug links at the Senate last year, was reacting to Ang-See's statement that Mendoza's extension was sending the "wrong signal" to the Chinese-Filipino community because of his "tainted record."

Mendoza, who is to retire in March, has been given a nine-month extension by President Macapagal-Arroyo which she announced during the 11th anniversary of the PNP last week.

Mendoza took over as PNP chief from Lacson in January 2001 following the second Edsa people power uprising that ousted Joseph Estrada.

Ang-See yesterday dismissed Ong's charges.

"These people seem to be afraid of Ping Lacson's shadow. It's too convenient for them to blame everything on the senator. You can't solve a problem by looking for scapegoats," Ang-See said in a phone interview.

Reacting to Ong's allegations that she could have been paid off with Lacson's drug money, she said: "That's ridiculous. We are an anti-crime NGO. We would be the last person to do that."

"It would also be easy for me to say that Ong and her cohorts are being paid by the Hong Kong triad to neutralize and destroy my effectivity, but I won't stoop to her level," she said.

Ang-See explained that she never spoke out against Lacson for his alleged links to organized crime because she had no evidence.

Another anti-crime group, the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, yesterday said it supported Ms Macapagal's decision to extend Mendoza's term.

VACC chair Dante Jimenez said it was "a laudable move given the gravity of our peace and order situation today."

"In the face of mounting kidnap-for-ransom and other syndicated crimes, one year is simply not enough for the police chief to do his job," Jimenez said in a statement.

The group said it remained confident that Mendoza can "effectively steer anti-crime programs" and wished other anti-crime groups would see the wisdom of and respect the President's decision.

It said the "nine-year anti-crime tandem of Estrada and Lacson" had "left a debris of criminal activities of such unthinkable proportions that it would take all the political will and conviction of the present administration to dismantle it."

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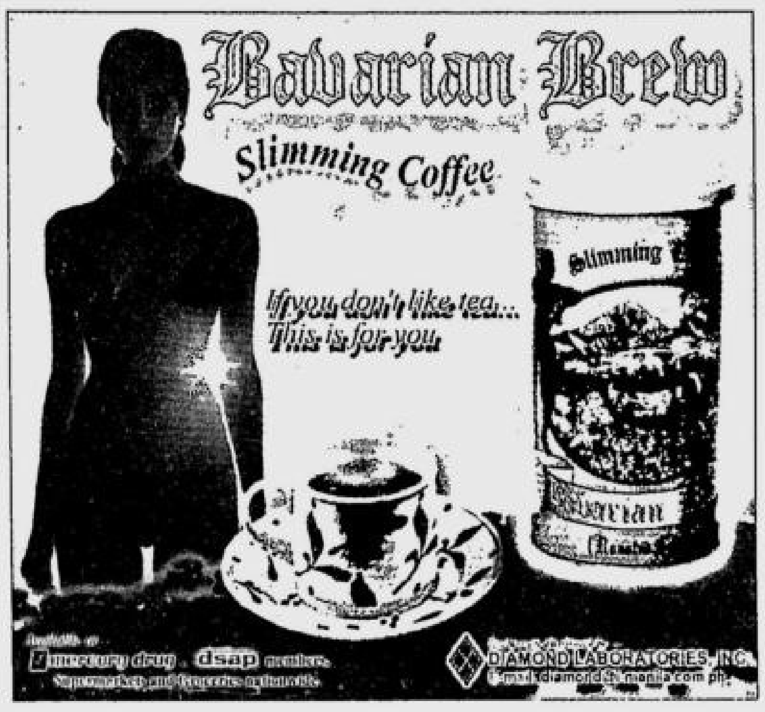
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SC dismisses stubborn judge

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME Court yesterday sacked a stubborn Makati judge for disobeying its order suspending him last year.

In a full court resolution, the high court dismissed Judge Escolastico Cruz Jr., the presiding judge of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 58, for grave misconduct prejudicial to the administration of justice.

The court stripped him of his retirement benefits, except for his accrued leaves, and banned his reemployment into the government service.

"The order (of) dismissal is immediately executory," said the Feb. 4 resolution released to reporters by the SC yesterday.

Cruz incurred the ire of the tribunal after he figured in a traffic altercation with a medical doctor and four others, which he threatened with a gun.

His victims—Dr. Edgardo Alday, Mercedes Favis, Marna Villafuerte and Christopher Garcia—then filed an administrative complaint against him with the Office of Court Administrator (OCA).

On March 14, 2001, the high court decided to slap him with a one-year suspension and a fine of P50,000. The tribunal also warned him that commission of a similar act would be dealt with severely.

He appealed the decision but the court denied it with finality on Aug. 28, 2001.

The high court noted that Cruz's suspension should have been immediately executory. When he received a copy of the order on March 22 last year, Cruz should have begun serving his suspension order, it said.

"It appeared, however, that despite our suspension order, respondent judge continued to discharge the duties and exercise the functions of a judge."

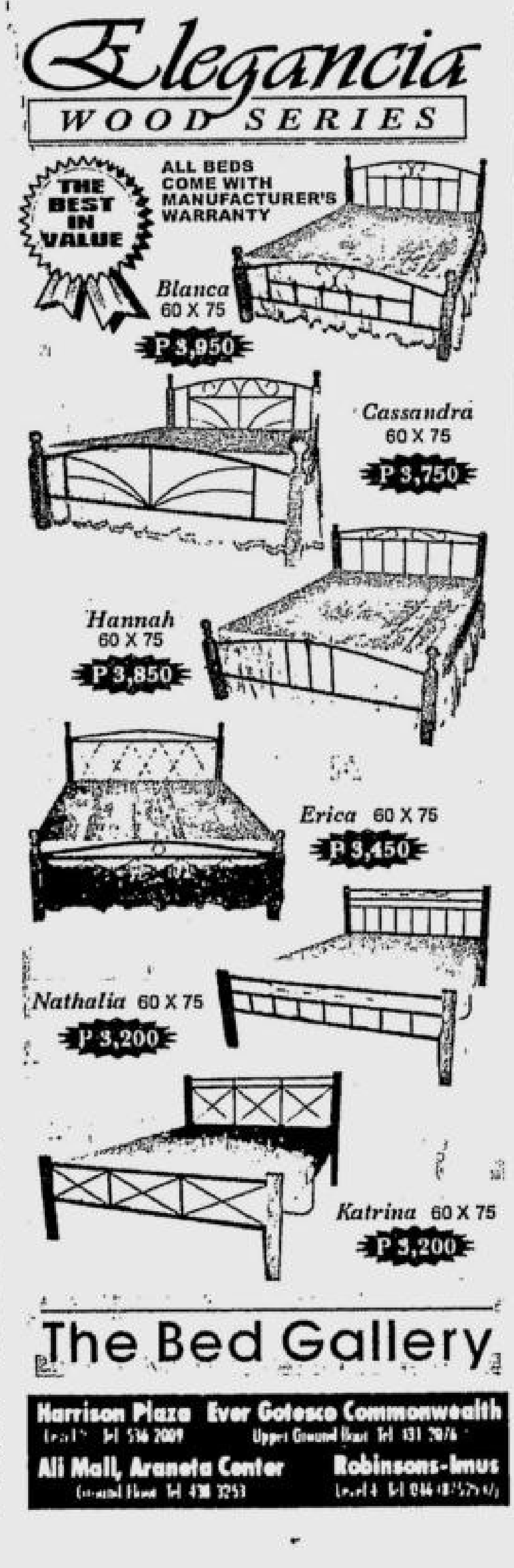
Mayor sacked

THE OMBUDSMAN has dismissed the mayor of Panukulan, Quezon, who was caught transporting a large amount of shabu in October last year, Interior Secretary Joey Lina announced yesterday.

Ronnie Mitra was also disqualified from re-employment in government while his benefits were forfeited and his eligibility canceled, Lina told a press briefing, citing the Ombudsman ruling handed down on Jan. 25.

Also dismissed were his security aide Ruel Dequilla and driver Javier Morilla, both government employees.

"This serves as a warning to local chief executives. This decision only shows that narco-politics will not, and shall not, be allowed to reign in this country," Lina told a hastily called press briefing at the national police headquarters in Camp Crame.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INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 67
ISSN 0116-2642

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inq7.net

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
▪ Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
▪ P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
▪ Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
▪ Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 ▪ Advertising 897-4807
▪ Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

100% soy ink

Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
Editor in Chief **LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC**
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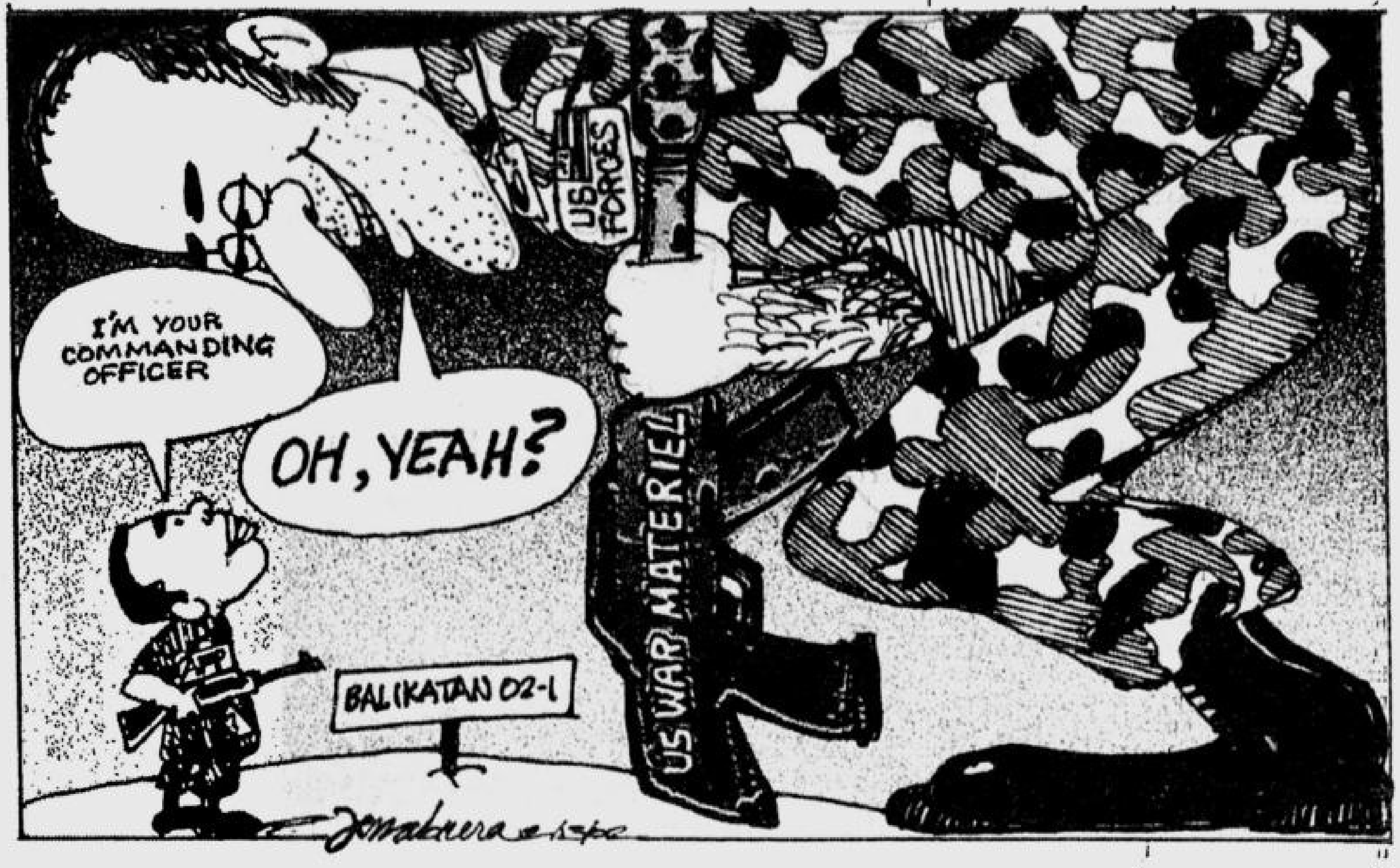

Freak show

EDITORIAL

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon must really be growing desperate. To breathe new life into a tourism industry that has been bloodied by violence not just in the South but even in the urban centers, where kidnapping cases are again on the rise, Gordon seems just about ready to try anything and everything.

For a time, his "holiday economics " looked like a hot idea. Now it is beginning to feel like a hot potato, fit to be dropped, even to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, if her failure to advance the observance of Constitution Day by one day to let people enjoy a long weekend was any indication. For even as the extended holidays are welcomed by salaried workers, employers and wage earners have been anything but enthusiastic about the loss in productivity and income.

Now Gordon has come up with another brainchild: hosting the fight between heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis and challenger Mike Tyson. He said staging the fight in Manila could help improve the Philippine image abroad, which has been badly damaged by perceptions of political instability and the series of kidnappings by the Abu Sayyaf. "This fight will focus the cameras of the world toward a peaceful Philippines, a sports-minded Philippines," he told a local television network. He went on to disclose that he had directed the Philippine tourism coordinator in the United States "to make a very big attempt, a never-say-die attempt to get this bout."

Hosting the fight will no doubt put the Philippines in the spotlight. But it isn't going to be the kindly light Gordon is thinking of.

Sure, the country reaped some nice dividends from the Thrilla in Manila. So did Zaire from the Rumble in the Jungle. But both times it was Muhammad Ali who was fighting in the ring, a true sportsman and champion.

This time it will be Tyson who will take center stage and, to put it very charitably, he is no Ali. This miserable excuse for a prizefighter has broken all the rules inside and outside the ring. He served time in prison for rape. He has beaten his former wife black and blue. He has bitten off a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear in an earlier fight. And last month in New York, he went after Lewis, without any provocation, at the start of a press conference to announce their forthcoming bout in Las Vegas.

In a better, gentler time, Tyson would not have been able to fight again after committing any of these crimes. But this is a materialistic world, and while Tyson keeps drawing fans to fill a stadium he will continue to earn millions without in the least minding his manners. For as long as people pay to watch him, boxing officials, like World Boxing Council president Jose Sulaiman, are willing to overlook his many transgressions. And while there is money to be made, promoters like Don King will be there to arrange his fights, and decency and sportsmanship be damned. Tyson has turned boxing into a freak show, but nobody seems to care enough about the sport to save it.

To its credit, the Nevada Boxing Commission felt it had seen enough of Tyson's criminal conduct after the brawl in New York. It promptly revoked his license, forcing the cancellation of the fight that had been scheduled for April 6 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

This is the fight Gordon wants to save. An event rejected by the city dedicated to Mammon will be hosted by the Noble and Ever Loyal City, if Gordon will have his way.

For what? Gordon says it will improve the country's image before the world. If Tyson is going to be the image model, the county will be much better off retaining Abu Sabaya, Commander Robot or any of the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Gordon says having Tyson fight here will project the country as "sports-minded." But few people anywhere in the world consider beating up women and cannibalism as sports.

If Gordon must absolutely have his freak show, let him bring it elsewhere. That will save the nation hundreds of millions pesos in sponsorship fees and other expenses. And above all, it will save Filipino children from entertaining the dangerous notion that big-time athletes are not bound by the rules. Tyson may be a hero to people who worship big bucks. He is no hero to people who love sports.

Cebu Pacific Airways a misnomer?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE DOGFIGHT between Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific Airways over four additional flights to Korea is still raging. PAL wants to split the four frequencies evenly between itself and Cebu Pacific, but the latter wants all four for itself. PAL intends to use its two-flight share for the Cebu-Seoul route while Cebu Pacific plans to use three of the four flights for the Manila-Seoul route and reserve the fourth for its use later as it is not yet capable of using all four additional frequencies.

Recently, the dogfight has spread into the "battle of the ads." A few days ago, Cebu Pacific took out full-page newspaper advertisements saying all four frequencies belong to it, and that PAL had earlier only borrowed two frequencies to Seoul that belong to Cebu Pacific which PAL should now return. Yesterday, PAL took out its own advertisement answering the Cebu Pacific ad. In effect, PAL said its competitor did not yet "own" the two frequencies granted to it (PAL) temporarily by the Civil Aeronautic Board.

"What is not yet given cannot be owned; what is not yet owned cannot be loaned," said the PAL ad.

"Since the frequencies are not indisputably Cebu Pacific's, what is there to return?" the ad asked. "Its 'ownership' is still very much in question and PAL has all the right to press its case." In fact, CAB is still scheduled to meet today to resolve the issue.

As I see it, there is something very wrong here. The airline of the John Gokongwei's mammoth J.G. Summit conglomerate is named Cebu Pacific. Its franchise mandates it to use Cebu as its base. In other words, Cebu is supposed to be Cebu Pacific's base and main hub. But it has no international flights emanating from Cebu although it operates 14 scheduled international flights from Manila. It boasts of 96 domestic flights weekly out of Cebu, but it flies more than twice that number—96 times weekly—out of Manila. Cebu Pacific also plans to fly three additional frequencies to Seoul—if it finally gets them from Manila and none from Cebu. And yet there is an acute shortage of seats in the Cebu-Seoul route and the Cebuanos are appealing for more. That is why PAL plans to use its two additional frequencies—if it gets them—for the Cebu-Seoul route.

Can you find a bigger misnomer in the airline industry than Cebu Pacific Airways?

In contrast, PAL boasts that it is the biggest air carrier in Cebu, "offering up to 21,000 seats weekly on modern airbus A320, Boeing 737-300, widebody A330 and Boeing 747-400 jumbo jets.

"PAL links Cebu not just to Seoul," said PAL, "but also to Tokyo, Osaka, Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu, spurring trade, tourism and other livelihood opportunities for Cebuanos."

"Cebu Pacific's DC-9 planes have only 110-115 seats, for a total number of about 11,040 seats weekly on its Cebu flights," continued PAL. "So which airline has done more—and wants to do more—for Cebu? One with the city's name painted on its fuselage? Or one that has invested significant resources, time and effort to build up Cebu as a prime tourist and business gateway?"

Cebu Pacific is a Philippine flag carrier. But does it act like one? It doesn't seem so. It merely wants to enjoy the benefits of being a flag carrier, but evades the responsibilities and shuns the risk-taking that come with the designation, says PAL. In its six years of operation, PAL continues, Cebu Pacific steered clear of serving rural communities, the so-called "missionary routes that most need regular air service. It prefers to fly the safe, risk-free trunk routes.

In the international sector, PAL continues, "Cebu Pacific is following the same pusillanimous posture. It wants to reap what other carriers have sowed without sinking the necessary investment. Take the current Korean entitlements. Seeing the success and potential of the Korean market that PAL and other carriers developed over two decades, Cebu Pacific now demands all four new frequencies for its exclusive use, on the ground that it is a new entrant deserving special treatment. Meanwhile, others should just grin and bear it. Is this fair?" PAL asks.

The dispute has been labeled a "David and Goliath" duel. Not accurate. It is a "Goliath vs. Goliath" duel. Cebu Pacific is backed by the billion-dollar capitalized J.G. Summit conglomerate of the Gokongweis—one of the largest business empires in the country. PAL is backed by the Lucio Tan empire. It's a "Taipan vs. Taipan" duel.

Yet, in spite of the size of its parent, Cebu Pacific does not want to risk capital to develop its own market. It prefers to ride on the success of others who have blazed the trail, says PAL. "It is content to mine markets other carriers have spent decades developing. If far smaller carriers like Asian Spirit and Seair can muster the gumption to fly missionary routes, what more the mighty Gokongwei group?"

Enough said. Expect Cebu Pacific to mount another ad counterattack. But let's hope that CAB will finally be able to solve the problem happily for all sides today.

Anomaly

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

RUSSELL Baker had this very nice column once. He was looking out a window from several floors up, he said, when he espied this fellow trying to park his car on the parking lot outside. The parking lot was full, but there was a small space between two cars. The fellow drove resolutely in, and by dint of inching forward and backward, now and then nudging one or the other car as he pushed his way inside, he managed to squeeze through. And even get out of the car, though it took some effort to wriggle out of it. At the end of his exertions, he ran a hand on his crumpled coat, straightened out his tie, and walked off to work.

There, gushed Baker, was the perfect metaphor of New York. It was a place where people fought scrappily for their small space, colliding with bodies every so often, though with no intention to harm. It was not belligerence that drove New Yorkers to push and shove, it was, well, the desire to find a place to park. At the end of the day, they came out crumpled but satisfied, banged up but victorious.

I saw something like this in Naga City last week. It wasn't at a parking lot, it was at a junction appropriately called "Diversion." That was where the road forked and led variously to Naga City proper, Legazpi and Manila. There was no traffic light, which is an engraved invitation to disaster, also called a gridlock, in Metro Manila. Nothing of that sort happened. The flow of traffic was by no means orderly, the tricyles hustling about, weaving in and out of the vehicles. The cars and trucks and buses themselves needed only small openings to push forward. But there wasn't the fuming impatience you find in Metro Manila, the kind that drives people to cut off other vehicles and grind everything to a halt.

This was traffic hour in the morning, when people rushed off to work. Naga City's daytime population has grown over the years, climbing to 200,000 on good (or bad) days; the resident population is around 140,000. And the number of cars and other vehicles has grown apace with the population. So there was a pretty good crowd at the intersection. But lo and behold, the traffic moved, if not completely smoothly at least reasonably freely. "Reasonably" was the word that kept knocking on my mind. It was the word that best described the spirit of things. There was an air of reasonableness to it, unlike the desperate and frenetic abandon you find in Metro Manila intersections when the traffic lights go out.

As it turned out, that was just the tip of the iceberg. Someone would point it out to me later on by asking me what was the one thing in Naga you won't find in other cities. After answering "*pili* and *sili*," which were wrong because you find them as well in other cities in Bicol, I gave up. He said triumphantly: "No traffic lights."

That was true. Naga isn't a small city anymore, it has grown physically in space over the last several decades, now becoming Metro Naga. Cars and other vehicles now rumble at any time of the day around the *centro*, the commercial area and plaza at the heart of the city, once home only to the tri-mobiles. That is no small amount of traffic, which grows monstrous on the Peñafrancia fiesta when the whole of Bicol descends on Naga City. I was there a couple of years ago, which fiesta turned out to break records in attendance—almost a couple of million people went there—and it was absolute bedlam.

The daily traffic isn't light by any means, particularly on rush hour, but that's the wonder of it. It flows without traffic lights. A little jaggedly, a little fretfully during rush hour, but it flows. Again, the word that comes to mind is reasonableness, or even neighborliness. There isn't the each-man-for-himself-the-devil-take-the-hindmost kind of mindlessness you find in resolute display on Metro Manila streets. There is instead a sense of tolerance, a subtle display of innate intelligence. It's common sense that if you look out only for yourself, you will end up last. But common sense seems more common in Naga than elsewhere.

Maybe it's the fact that the main thoroughfares have been turned into one-way streets, the traffic just going round and round. Maybe it's the fact that there are still infinitely less cars in Metro Naga than in Metro Manila. Maybe it's the fact that Metro Naga is so much smaller than Metro Manila and you can get to your place of work in 15 minutes or so—if you're **not** lucky. Maybe it's the fact that life outside Metro Manila is still slower, you do not need to rush off every second to meet ulcers. Maybe it's the legendary Bicolano capacity for being laidback, or for refusing to be drawn into the maelstrom of mindless activity, or the kind where you lose sight of means and ends. Maybe it's the more legendary Bicolano capacity for humor, for seeing the lighter side even of traffic, enough to not cause it unduly.

Whatever it is, it works. And works wonders. It's all in keeping with a place I keep going back to again and again when I begin to lose my bearings. It's not just a place I grew up in, it's a place I grow wise in. It's not perfect, it has its warts too—it remains tremendously conservative in many things for one—but it has no end of virtue. It is, not quite incidentally, a place where movie stars do not win in elections, where people are free to speak their mind—the plaza is a veritable Hyde Park, now named after a fellow who spent more time debating religion and politics there than selling *calamay*, which was his itinerant trade—where the highest public officials eat *loglog* in the same rundown place as the lowest *kutseros*.

It is really, a friend of mine says with wry humor, an anomaly. But you wish the country was filled with more anomalies like this.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Oreta's vendetta

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE 14-1 vote in the finance committee of the Commission on Appointments to recommend the confirmation of the appointment of Jose Isidro Camacho as finance secretary throws the spotlight on two things.

First is that this is a test of strength between President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the opposition in the Senate, a measure of her ability to marshal the numbers to back a Cabinet member she considers as a pillar of her administration. The vote shows she has the numbers when Camacho's confirmation gets to the plenary session of the CA, even though opposition members, particularly Sen. Teresita Aquino-Oreta, could delay it until March 13 with filibusters and by invoking Article 20 of the CA rules.

The second is that it shows very clearly how the CA can be abused by members of Congress to block appointments for very petty reasons—like settling personal scores—that have little to do with public interest, and how it can be used by its members for political blackmail. Those who have been through the wringer of having their appointments confirmed can testify to the fact that the commission is like a medieval torture chamber.

Opposition members of the Senate walked out of the CA session the other day after the vote of the finance committee, denouncing the majority for "railroading" the appointment and "destroying the independence of the Senate." The charges of railroading stemmed from the rulings of the committee chair, Sen. Ralph Recto, brushing aside Oreta's relentless repetition of questions that she had raised many times, and which had been answered, in previous hearings. She has no right to waste the time of the commission on silly questions, given that much time has already been used by the Senate on investigations at the expense of writing laws.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel, who has lost no time in demonstrating and trying to prove to himself that he is indeed the minority leader, lashed at the majority for allegedly impairing the Senate's independence by getting the vote behind Camacho's confirmation.

In a legislative chamber, a vote reflects party or factional alignments and this is neither "railroading" nor "destroying" the Senate's independence. The minority senators decided to play "hard ball"—e.g., Oreta's filibuster—and when the majority also played "hard ball" the minority cried foul.

Oreta's effort to block Camacho's confirmation springs from the appearance of allegedly obscene posters excoriating Oreta on Camacho's house after the fateful Senate vote to suppress the evidence in the Estrada impeachment trial. Her opposition has little to do with Camacho's qualifications for the job of finance secretary. She has tried to find fault, with little success, with the issuance of the PEACe bonds, floated by Code-NGO headed by Camacho's sister. Oreta has to disclose more damning proofs to show that Camacho intervened in favor of his sister or that the playing field in the bidding for the bond was uneven or made to favor Code-NGO. Already a number of independent newspaper commentators have shown that the deal is aboveboard and that it had not prejudiced public interest.

The closer the deal is scrutinized, the more it shows how flimsy are the charges of rent-seeking. Nonetheless, Oreta did not miss the opportunity to raise again questions that had already been examined and answered. What this showed was the ability of Oreta to wreak vengeance, to ask silly questions and to abuse the power of filibuster. It showed us how senators can be nasty if their paths are crossed. For example, many ambassadors recommended for promotion or foreign postings have been humiliated by members of the CA and their nominations blocked for the paltry reason that they did not meet visiting congressmen and senators at the airport or did not help their wives when they went shopping.

To show how petty are her objections, Oreta has sent messages to the Camacho family, through mutual friends, asking them to talk with her and suggesting that if Camacho would apologize for the posters, she would withdraw her opposition. Camacho has rejected the overtures. He has nothing to apologize for because the issue in the confirmation is his fitness for the job.

Pimentel says the finance committee of the CA vote was a "derogation" of the Senate's independence. Oreta's abuse of the filibuster and vindictive blocking of Camacho's confirmation have done more to degrade the Senate than the vote, which was in accordance with the democratic procedure.

President Macapagal has put her leadership on the line after concluding that Camacho had done nothing irregular in the issuance of PEACe bonds and that he is one of the strongest pillars of the Cabinet. Proof of the latter is that the business community went en masse to the Senate in support of Camacho. The businessmen do not only have confidence in the integrity of Camacho but also in his competence as finance secretary. No finance secretary in recent years has received such a strong demonstration of private sector support in the CA hearings. Their presence was also an expression of disapproval for the bullying and inquisitorial tactics of some members of the CA.

The President knows why Camacho is the storm center of the opposition's demolition job. If the opposition succeeds in knocking down Camacho, that would cripple the administration. This is the reason she is rallying the troops in the House and the Senate to get the vote behind Camacho in the plenary session of the CA.

A day for happy vaginas

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHEN I received e-mail from Monique Wilson last month asking if I wanted to be part of "Kababaihan: A Gala Benefit Performance of the Vagina Monologues," I shot off a reply saying that I would dearly love to help in the cause, but performing was unfortunately not a gift I've been blessed with.

Minutes after I clicked the "send" button, though, I regretted my hasty reply. If I asked for it, I could have had the chance to perform my favorite part of the play, known as "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy," but better known among the audience as "the moans." If I'd gotten the part, then maybe I could have had an excuse to do some field research!

Anyway, Monique wrote back assuring me that not everyone who'd come onstage would be required to perform. Non-stage people, I've been told, will be allowed to carry cue cards. Then, just the other day, I got a fax of the script. I was going to be part of the "Vagina Monologues" after all! But instead of "the moans," I've been assigned to do "What does your vagina smell like?" in the distinguished company of Gilda Cordero Fernando and Alya Honasan.

When I asked my daughter to help me memorize my lines, she begged me to stop after just the first line. "Ma, you're embarrassing me!" I was thinking of asking my siblings and older relatives to watch my "performance" at the Folk Arts Theater on Feb. 23, but given my daughter's vehement reaction, I guess I'd better scratch the plan. Next thing you know, I might find my name expunged from the family tree!

* * *

BUT if the lure of watching Gilda, Alya and myself talking about what our vaginas smell like is not enough to convince you to buy a ticket and take part in the Manila V-Day Event, then the rest of the cast should draw you.

For starters, there is the playwright Eve Ensler herself, who is flying in from New York just for the Manila V-Day Event and is performing a new and original monologue. Then there are the stars of both the English and Filipino versions of "The Vagina Monologues": Monique Wilson, Tami Monsod, Dulce Aristorenas, Lara Fabregas, Arlene Borja, Harlene Bautista-Sarmenta, Missy Maramara and Lynn Sherman. Joining them are no less than the "mothers" of Philippine theater: Zeneida "Tita Bibot" Amador, Baby Barredo, Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, Celeste Legaspi and OPM president and singer/comedienne Mitch Valdes. Other artists featured are Nanette Inventor, Grace Nono, Roselle Nava, Leah Navarro and Cynthia Alexander, VJs Belinda Panelo and Sarah Meier, TV and film stars Angel Aquino and Angelu de Leon and scriptwriter and artist Bibeth Orteza.

From the field of media, literature and politics: Winnie Monsod, Tingting Cojuangco, Liza Maza, Emmie de Jesus, Aida Santos and Cheche Lazaro. Others in the cast are theatre and TV artists Pinky Amador and Malou de Guzman, TV hosts Cher Calvin and Angel Jacob, visual artist Maita Beltran and theatre artists Christine Carlos, Madeleine Nicolas, Connie Chua, Olga Natividad, Amparo Sietereales and Glecy Atienza (also one of the play's translators), as well as Jenny Jamora, Christine Escudero and Jasmin Zueger.

Film director Marilou Diaz Abaya had signed on but was called on a mission to Sweden. Gelli de Belen had also said yes but had to bow out due to a family emergency.

* * *

DURING the press conference for "Kababaihan," a writer for a "conservative women's magazine" wanted to know how she could write about the V-Day Event without offending the sensibilities of the publisher.

Che-che Lazaro replied that when The Probe Team did a story on the comfort women issue, she aired footage of a *lola* recounting her ordeal as a sex slave in a Japanese barracks. At the end of the day, the *lola* said, she would have "serviced" so many soldiers that *"sumasakit na ang aking puki* (my vagina would be sore)." For this transgression Etta Mendez's MTRCB fined The Probe Team P25,000 for airing the word *"puki"* and allegedly inciting prurient thoughts among viewers.

I wonder how the venerable Etta would have reacted to a performance of the Filipino version of "The Vagina Monologues," where in the first few minutes alone, the theater resounds with innumerable *"pukis."*

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THE ANSWER to the worried writer is that saying, and writing, the word vagina or *puki* without shame or embarrassment, is to claim the word and everything that it stands for. It is to wash it of its prurient, malicious and shameful connotations. It is to celebrate the power of a woman's sexuality, to find the voice to speak out against violation and violence, and to pay homage to women's singular gift of bearing new life, life which starts only after a sperm's successful journey through our vaginas and the resulting implantation in our wombs. As Dulce Aristorenas proclaimed: "Without vaginas, none of us would be here!"

"Kababaihan," the Manila V-Day event, is also a fund-raising venture. The greater part of the proceeds will go to help fund the activities of women's NGO's working to end violence against women. These are: the Purple Rose Campaign of Gabriela against trafficking of women and children, the Women's Crisis Center, Kalakasan or Kababaihan Laban sa Karahasan and WomenLead.

So go ahead and celebrate (in whatever way you wish) the Day of Hearts tomorrow. But on Feb. 23, a Saturday, come to the Folk Arts Theater and celebrate through words, music, dance and image the power, the beauty, the pleasure and the pain of our vaginas. Friendly penises are invited, too.

Game shows

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

REFLECTING on the fads that came and went in my lifetime: hot *pan de sal*, pagers, *lechon manok*, text jokes, Thalia, pearl shakes, *Lapid's chicharon*, etc. I wonder how long the present mania for game shows will last. While there will always be people in need of a million peso windfall, the TV game show is not permanent and it is largely dependent on ratings and advertisements. Game shows in the United States gave way to so-called "reality" shows like Survivor or an urban clone where people are put together in an apartment to live and they vote each other out till one lucky person is left to win a cash jackpot. I know that we will wake up one day to another fad. What amazes me is that some rather dated TV game shows like "Family Feud" and "Price is Right," nearly extinct in the United States, have been revived in the Philippines. When will the original Pinoy game show "Kwarta o Kahon" be pulled out of the dustbin? Pepe Pimentel, the original host, may be older and slimmer but if he can get over the jokes about his baldness and his mother-in-law there might be hope for yet another incarnation of this once popular show.

As I mentioned in an earlier column I had seriously considered joining one of these game shows. I studied each one and in the early stages of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" I felt I had a chance. The questions were simple, the host could not even pronounce some foreign words and names right, the producers were raring to give away the first million. Then a professor from De La Salle University won the jackpot, followed by Sharon Cuneta. *Sayang*, when that opportunity flew away with all the easy questions I looked to "Weakest Link." This show had the added attraction of being verbally abused by Edu Manzano and the other contestants, it is quite challenging but the take-home prize money is so small it is not worth the trouble and the aggravation. "Family Feud" and "Price is Right" were options but even speaking as a historian these were too dated for me. Perhaps I should have tried the inane noontime game shows. Stakes were high and unlike the primetime game shows I could lose and nobody would notice. None of the people I know socially and professionally are home at noon, besides even if they saw me on the show they would be distracted by the gyrating women in the background or the slapstick antics of the hosts.

After comparing all the present game shows I set my sights on "Game Ka na Ba." But last week a man from General Santos City won the first million, followed quickly by Sharon Cuneta who added yet another million to her mega-bucks. *Sayang* again. I wanted to patronize "Game Ka na Ba" because it was truly homegrown Pinoy, it did not remit dollars to pay royalties to foreign producers. Heck, the show even has its own ring-tone for cellphones. Like the other shows you need a phone to get a chance to join. This call costs P10 a minute, not much in the context of a million pesos. On these calls alone the show rakes in an estimated P15 million per month. Add up other revenue for advertisements, sponsors, ex-deals, etc. and you can understand why they are desperate to give away the first million. They have to be credible, but the frustrating thing is that most contestants chicken out after clocking in P300,000 and a prize showcase that can be a tricycle, sari-sari store start up kit, or trip to Hong Kong. Why are people unwilling to dare and aspire beyond 300,000 pesos when their investment was but an over-priced phone call? Can "Game ka na Ba" be seen as an indicator of the social climate? Is this a reflection of Philippine culture?

I used to think the object of "Weakest Link" was to get rid of the contestants who cannot answer the questions quickly or correctly. Shouldn't the "Weakest Link" be someone who reduces the chance of earning more money for the pot? Watch this show as played in the Philippines and you will see the logical opposite. Contestants, threatened by excellence in their midst gang up on the best player. Since the most intelligent contestant is ultimately a competitor for the prize he should be eliminated early on. Thus, the winner of this show is not the best and the brightest but literally the weakest link. I have not watched the UK and US versions of the show to compare if they play the same way we do, but reflecting on the "Weakest Link" reminded me of the so-called crab mentality.

Contrary to popular belief, when you put crabs in a container they do not pull each other down in the race for the exit. They actually climb on each other to get out. Visit any wet market to relearn how "crab mentality" actually works. If they pulled each other down there will be no reason to tie them up or even cover the basket—nothing should escape. Game shows can actually give us a clue into Filipino behavior just as crabs do in a wet market. I may not have the statistical data to make conclusions, but I think that when historians of the future view game show tapes as historical documents of our time they will probably ask the very same question I ask today—is the game show fad a reflection of present Philippine society? Do these reflect Philippine culture?

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Confidence is coming back

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CHAFF FROM THE GRAIN

Hector R. R. Villanueva

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo returned euphoric last week from a whirlwind three-nation swing of Great Britain, Canada and the United States beaming with confidence, and brandishing a list of investment commitments.

While abroad, the President received a fair share of television exposure, albeit minimal print mileage, while at home, the popular and calming effect, notwithstanding the street demonstrations, of the arrival of American "military advisers" and trainers, has ushered in a flurry of foreign funds in search of bargains, windfall profits and give-away blue chip prices from the local bourse.

Indeed, there are positive developments, brought about by perseverance, good timing and calculated risks on the part of President Macapagal, that have brought back cautious confidence from the international community.

It goes without saying that "confidence" is an accepted psychological phenomenon in economics that cannot be invented, predicted, cajoled or quantified. Once resurgent, confidence triggers a strong multiplier effect and motivational force.

Thus, barring sudden and cataclysmic events of the 9-11 magnitude, the Philippine economy will not only show some dramatic improvements and resilience this year but also, we hope, bring about a better political environment for President Macapagal for the rest of the year 2002.

However, the economic recovery appears to be heavily premised on an American-led global recovery, with Japan, which may not be forthcoming in the next two quarters.

The question is, has the US recession bottomed out? The answer is maybe.

Will Japan come out soon from its economic rut?

Definitely no. Japan's structural and political stagnation may have driven the world's former second largest economic and industrial power into terminal decline for sometime to come.

Thus, the Philippines' two major trading partners, which account for nearly two-thirds of this country's merchandise exports and nearly 70 percent of its capital goods and raw materials imports, other than fossil fuels, may not be in an immediate position to put the Philippines back on the sustainable track that it was already in 1997 before the onset of the Asian financial meltdown.

Moreover, first, the Philippines has no manufacturing backbone to speak of that can immediately be mobilized to take advantage of global recovery unlike other economies, such as South Korea, Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, India and Singapore, that already have a diversified and sophisticated manufacturing sector. The Philippines is largely dependent on nominal value added semiconductor and garments exports and low-technology downstream industries albeit complemented by a strong services sector.

In brief, it is not quite accurate to compare Philippine's 3.4 percent GDP with the lower growth rate of, say, Singapore, or Taiwan's or South Korea's or Hong Kong's as these countries not only have bigger GDPs, bigger exports and smaller population but also have developed industrial capabilities.

Second, the euphoria over the stock market resurgence, for example, which is not a stable and reliable barometer of economic strength and stability, needs to be counterbalanced by the realities of the Philippine economy.

Thus, the Philippine stock market is not only one of the smallest capital markets in the region but has also one of the shortest roster of listed blue chip companies in East Asia so that a sudden large inflow of foreign funds can give the local bourse constipation and indigestion.

In other words, the Philippines sadly is not primed for industrialization or takeoff.

Third, neither is the country geared for agricultural modernization and cereal self-sufficiency so long as the unamended Agrarian Reform Law hangs like a Sword of Damocles over agriculture.

Philippine agriculture has grown a dismal 2 percent annually on the average in the last 20 years which is shameful.

Fourth, the nascent industrial base and the "feudal" agricultural sector cannot cope with the explosive growth of the population which grows younger with every generation. Political will is urgently needed to reduce the population growth rate of 2.3 percent annually or over one million babies every year.

When all is said and done, there is a need to focus on a long-term vision and systems overhaul while taking advantage, in the short run, of the economic windfall effects of 9-11 and President George W. Bush's war on international terrorism and his generous budget.

That is the long and short of it.

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HERE AND THERE

Most analysts expect the Philippine peso to depreciate against the US dollar in the second semester...Meanwhile, multilateral lending institutions for 2002 are forecasting worldwide capital flows to emerging markets to average from a low of $140 billion to high of $180 billion...What is the Philippines doing about it to get a slice of the pie? Incidentally, the spin doctors of the administration should perhaps request the US PR firm Burson-Masteller to help them change the image of the Macapagal administration as a "band-aid" administration, or the "denial" government...Meanwhile, when asked whether Ombudsman Aniano Desierto will ever be impeached by the House of Representatives, a former lawmaker said that it was unlikely as "Ani has many of the congressmen by their "b—s...By the way, here's wishing a speedy recovery for Benjamin Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, who suffered a mild stroke late last year...Don't look now but ex-Citibankers seem to be all over the government, especially the GFIs, which makes Finance Secretary Isidro "Lito" Camacho, a non-Citibank alumnus, uncomfortable...Another Citibanker, Ding Salvador, is expected to be the next president and COO of UCPB (Cocobank) with Edward Go as chair and CEO...It is a package deal or no go...Salvador was PCGG fiscal agent in the UCPB rehab after Edsa I, former EVP of RCBC and main consultant in the recent entry of Export and Industry Bank into Urban Bank after the latter's closure.

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Oreta's vendetta

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE 14-1 vote in the finance committee of the Commission on Appointments to recommend the confirmation of the appointment of Jose Isidro Camacho as finance secretary throws the spotlight on two things.

First is that this is a test of strength between President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the opposition in the Senate, a measure of her ability to marshal the numbers to back a Cabinet member she considers as a pillar of her administration. The vote shows she has the numbers when Camacho's confirmation gets to the plenary session of the CA, even though opposition members, particularly Sen. Teresita Aquino-Oreta, could delay it until March 13 with filibusters and by invoking Article 20 of the CA rules.

The second is that it shows very clearly how the CA can be abused by members of Congress to block appointments for very petty reasons—like settling personal scores—that have little to do with public interest, and how it can be used by its members for political blackmail. Those who have been through the wringer of having their appointments confirmed can testify to the fact that the commission is like a medieval torture chamber.

Opposition members of the Senate walked out of the CA session the other day after the vote of the finance committee, denouncing the majority for "railroading" the appointment and "destroying the independence of the Senate." The charges of railroading stemmed from the rulings of the committee chair, Sen. Ralph Recto, brushing aside Oreta's relentless repetition of questions that she had raised many times, and which had been answered, in previous hearings. She has no right to waste the time of the commission on silly questions, given that much time has already been used by the Senate on investigations at the expense of writing laws.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel, who has lost no time in demonstrating and trying to prove to himself that he is indeed the minority leader, lashed at the majority for allegedly impairing the Senate's independence by getting the vote behind Camacho's confirmation.

In a legislative chamber, a vote reflects party or factional alignments and this is neither "railroading" nor "destroying" the Senate's independence. The minority senators decided to play "hard ball"—e.g., Oreta's filibuster—and when the majority also played "hard ball" the minority cried foul.

Oreta's effort to block Camacho's confirmation springs from the appearance of allegedly obscene posters excoriating Oreta on Camacho's house after the fateful Senate vote to suppress the evidence in the Estrada impeachment trial. Her opposition has little to do with Camacho's qualifications for the job of finance secretary. She has tried to find fault, with little success, with the issuance of the PEACe bonds, floated by Code-NGO headed by Camacho's sister. Oreta has to disclose more damning proofs to show that Camacho intervened in favor of his sister or that the playing field in the bidding for the bond was uneven or made to favor Code-NGO. Already a number of independent newspaper commentators have shown that the deal is aboveboard and that it had not prejudiced public interest.

The closer the deal is scrutinized, the more it shows how flimsy are the charges of rent-seeking. Nonetheless, Oreta did not miss the opportunity to raise again questions that had already been examined and answered. What this showed was the ability of Oreta to wreak vengeance, to ask silly questions and to abuse the power of filibuster. It showed us how senators can be nasty if their paths are crossed.

For example, many ambassadors recommended for promotion or foreign postings have been humiliated by members of the CA and their nominations blocked for the paltry reason that they did not meet visiting congressmen and senators at the airport or did not help their wives when they went shopping.

To show how petty are her objections, Oreta has sent messages to the Camacho family, through mutual friends, asking them to talk with her and suggesting that if Camacho would apologize for the posters, she would withdraw her opposition. Camacho has rejected the overtures. He has nothing to apologize for because the issue in the confirmation is his fitness for the job.

Pimentel says the finance committee of the CA vote was a "derogation" of the Senate's independence. Oreta's abuse of the filibuster and vindictive blocking of Camacho's confirmation have done more to degrade the Senate than the vote, which was in accordance with the democratic procedure.

President Macapagal has put her leadership on the line after concluding that Camacho had done nothing irregular in the issuance of PEACe bonds and that he is one of the strongest pillars of the Cabinet. Proof of the latter is that the business community went en masse to the Senate in support of Camacho. The businessmen do not only have confidence in the integrity of Camacho but also in his competence as finance secretary. No finance secretary in recent years has received such a strong demonstration of private sector support in the CA hearings. Their presence was also an expression of disapproval for the bullying and inquisitorial tactics of some members of the CA.

The President knows why Camacho is the storm center of the opposition's demolition job. If the opposition succeeds in knocking down Camacho, that would cripple the administration. This is the reason she is rallying the troops in the House and the Senate to get the vote behind Camacho in the plenary session of the CA.

A day for happy vaginas

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHEN I received e-mail from Monique Wilson last month asking if I wanted to be part of "Kababaihan: A Gala Benefit Performance of the Vagina Monologues," I shot off a reply saying that I would dearly love to help in the cause, but performing was unfortunately not a gift I've been blessed with.

Minutes after I clicked the "send" button, though, I regretted my hasty reply. If I asked for it, I could have had the chance to perform my favorite part of the play, known as "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy," but better known among the audience as "the moans." If I'd gotten the part, then maybe I could have had an excuse to do some field research!

Anyway, Monique wrote back assuring me that not everyone who'd come onstage would be required to perform. Non-stage people, I've been told, will be allowed to carry cue cards. Then, just the other day, I got a fax of the script. I was going to be part of the "Vagina Monologues" after all! But instead of "the moans," I've been assigned to do "What does your vagina smell like?" in the distinguished company of Gilda Cordero Fernando and Alya Honasan.

When I asked my daughter to help me memorize my lines, she begged me to stop after just the first line. "Ma, you're embarrassing me!" I was thinking of asking my siblings and older relatives to watch my "performance" at the Folk Arts Theater on Feb. 23, but given my daughter's vehement reaction, I guess I'd better scratch the plan. Next thing you know, I might find my name expunged from the family tree!

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BUT if the lure of watching Gilda, Alya and myself talking about what our vaginas smell like is not enough to convince you to buy a ticket and take part in the Manila V-Day Event, then the rest of the cast should draw you.

For starters, there is the playwright Eve Ensler herself, who is flying in from New York just for the Manila V-Day Event and is performing a new and original monologue. Then there are the stars of both the English and Filipino versions of "The Vagina Monologues": Monique Wilson, Tami Monsod, Dulce Aristorenas, Lara Fabregas, Arlene Borja, Harlene Bautista-Sarmenta, Missy Maramara and Lynn Sherman. Joining them are no less than the "mothers" of Philippine theater: Zeneida "Tita Bibot" Amador, Baby Barredo, Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, Celeste Legaspi and OPM president and singer/comedienne Mitch Valdes. Other artists featured are Nanette Inventor, Grace Nono, Roselle Nava, Leah Navarro and Cynthia Alexander, VJs Belinda Panelo and Sarah Meier, TV and film stars Angel Aquino and Angelu de Leon and scriptwriter and artist Bibeth Orteza.

From the field of media, literature and politics: Winnie Monsod, Tingting Cojuangco, Liza Maza, Emmie de Jesus, Aida Santos and Cheche Lazaro. Others in the cast are theatre and TV artists Pinky Amador and Malou de Guzman, TV hosts Cher Calvin and Angel Jacob, visual artist Maita Beltran and theatre artists Christine Carlos, Madeleine Nicolas, Connie Chua, Olga Natividad, Amparo Sietereales and Glecy Atienza (also one of the play's translators), as well as Jenny Jamora, Christine Escudero and Jasmin Zueger.

Film director Marilou Diaz Abaya had signed on but was called on a mission to Sweden. Gelli de Belen had also said yes but had to bow out due to a family emergency.

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* * *

HERE AND THERE

Most analysts expect the Philippine peso to depreciate against the US dollar in the second semester...Meanwhile, multilateral lending institutions for 2002 are forecasting worldwide capital flows to emerging markets to average from a low of $140 billion to high of $180 billion...What is the Philippines doing about it to get a slice of the pie? Incidentally, the spin doctors of the administration should perhaps request the US PR firm Burson-Masteller to help them change the image of the Macapagal administration as a "band-aid" administration, or the "denial" government...Meanwhile, when asked whether Ombudsman Aniano Desierto will ever be impeached by the House of Representatives, a former lawmaker said that it was unlikely as "Ani has many of the congressmen by their "b—s...By the way, here's wishing a speedy recovery for Benjamin Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, who suffered a mild stroke late last year...Don't look now but ex-Citibankers seem to be all over the government, especially the GFIs, which makes Finance Secretary Isidro "Lito" Camacho, a non-Citibank alumnus, uncomfortable...Another Citibanker, Ding Salvador, is expected to be the next president and COO of UCPB (Cocobank) with Edward Go as chair and CEO...It is a package deal or no go...Salvador was PCGG fiscal agent in theUCPB rehab after Edsa I, former EVP of RCBC and main consultant in the recent entry of Export and Industry Bank into Urban Bank after the latter's closure.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
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Substantial and credible defense needed for Erap

THIS pertains to the article by Volt Contreras last Feb. 7, 2002.

The news article claims that the lawyers of former President Joseph Estrada threaten to lay down their mandate should the court decide to accelerate the pace of the trial by holding hearings three times a week or even on a daily basis.

I read this startling information not only with amazement but also with some amusement. The reason given for the threat is that the lawyers have to attend to so many other cases that they would not be able to properly defend the former president's case should the court adopt such a schedule for the hearings. Are they really serious about using this argument?

When they undertook Erap's defense of the charges against him, they must have foreseen that the case, apart from the high profile, would also require total dedication of time of some of their law office's staff to prepare for the numerous hearings. Similarly, in industry, when business increases substantially either companies employ more staff (more lawyers) or they will choose to forego the business opportunity.

Aside from the United States, this country has the highest number of lawyers who are willing to render service to the people. Certainly there are a lot of highly qualified legal professionals capable of ensuring a proper handling of the defense.

The thought has crossed my mind that this is really a highly tactical game and using delaying tactics is part of it all. By all means this is legitimate and likely in the interest of the protagonists.

However, one should not ignore the fact that the world is watching this case with interest but there can be hardly any understanding or sympathy for the tactics used now and since the beginning which are wearing thin for a case which is of such fundamental importance and interest to the country.

The majority of lawyers and legal professionals in this country know that only credible and serious reasons and facts can guarantee a speedy and fair handling of the case. The legal profession in its entirety should realize that the case at bar is too serious and requires a substantial manifestation of the best the profession can bring to bear to resolve it.

—DIETER J. LONISHEN, c/o Unit 304 Garden Island, 34 N. Domingo St., Quezon City

A restriction on individual freedom

I was dismayed to read in the newspapers that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had issued an order banning the importation of second-hand clothes. This was a mistake.

The ban restricts individual choice and freedom. It is every citizen's right to wear any clothing as he or she pleases, short of offending community standards of decency.

The ban reduces people's welfare. While it has become chic for some of the better off to purchase *ukay-ukay* clothes, especially on trips to Baguio, the majority of those who purchase and wear second-hand clothes are ordinary citizens, particularly the poor. The ban reduces the supply of clothes and thereby drives up the cost of clothing.

The ban increases unemployment. The number of jobs related to the *ukay-ukay* industry that are eliminated by the ban are greater than the number of jobs in the textile or clothes industry that are maintained because of it. The net effect of the ban is increased unemployment—and therefore increased poverty. Please note that the net value-added of the textile industry is small.

The ban helps only a few and penalizes the majority. Certainly the textile and clothing manufacturers complain about the imports of second-hand clothes. But the gain to these manufacturers and their employees is minuscule compared to the loss that is being inflicted on the population as a whole who will have to bear the higher prices of clothes.

The issue of health risks from second-hand clothes is a poor excuse for the ban. Certainly the government, particularly the Department of Health, can conduct random tests of the imported clothes to determine health hazards that may be in the shipments. Also, the government can educate the citizenry on proper washing, cleaning and, if necessary, sterilization procedures to ensure that the clothes are safe to wear.

Finally, the issue of "national dignity" in the import of second-hand clothes is false, and deserves no discussion.

The President should recall the ban. It is a disservice to the principal clients of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, not to mention the Filipino common man.

—V. BRUCE J. TOLENTINO, 94C Esteban Abada St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Imprisoned in our poverty?

THIS refers to your editorial "Who is fighting poverty" last Feb. 7.

The only way to solve the difficult problem of poverty is for all politicians, including President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, to admit they cannot fight poverty. For politicians who declare they can solve poverty are fools.

Millions of Filipinos are poor because they choose to be poor. They don't have the initiative, determination and imagination to solve poverty.

And our Juan Tamad culture, including the folk song "Planting rice is never fun," imprisons our people in poverty.

Without population control, the rich get richer because they have only one or two contented children and the poor get countless hungry children.

—OSCAR R. LANDICHO, orlandicho@hotmail.com.

Media show of the 'Balato' Twins

HOW short-term our memories are! A year after Edsa II and even midway through the 40-day celebration of people power, we seem to have forgotten why we, as a nation, defied those in power.

When the 11 senators refused to open the envelope during the impeachment trial, we were a nation enraged because those whom we elected to power thwarted us by refusing the disclosure of information.

But it seems that our act of defiance in Edsa II is for naught. We watch apathetically as Senators John Osmeña and Tessie Oreta take every media opportunity on the issue of the PEACe bonds. It has been going on for sometime now but they have not given us a single impeccable counter-argument on the integrity and legality of the PEACe bonds.

It seems that their only objective in riding on the issue of the PEACe bonds is to cast doubt on the integrity of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

They are trying to raise a personal dispute with someone of outstanding professional reputation. Secretary Camacho has been responsible for the reversion of international credit rating agencies such as Moody's, negative outlook on the country. We have seen how he adeptly lured back investments in the country despite the Abu Sayaff crisis and the global slowdown. He was able to contain the budget deficit and helped the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) surpass its revenue targets. He is simply doing his job to the best of his ability and the two senators are picking on him to find a window of opportunity to stage their own personal agenda.

Senators Osmeña and Oreta are the same people whose very accountability and integrity we have already judged in Edsa II. No matter how they cloak themselves in the issue of the PEACe bonds, they will never be able to hide from the people what they once have revealed by sheer political greed.

But stage show or not, President Macapagal stands firm behind her appointment of Secretary Camacho so the two senators' media show on the PEACe bonds is really becoming their second undoing.

—MINNIE STA. CRUZ, 63 Mahinhin St., Diliman, Quezon City

Repercussions from refusal to cooperate with US

I DON'T see any reason why our "esteemed" politicians should be alarmed by the statements of US President George W. Bush. The underlying message of his State of the Union Address is that if the Philippines does not follow US wishes to crush the terrorist threat, there will be serious repercussions—economically, politically and financially.

First, bank transactions between the two countries and other countries friendly to the United States will be exceedingly difficult to conduct when the United States applies the squeeze to ensure delay.

Second, there will be increased scrutiny of all illegal Filipinos in the United States and even tighter screening of Filipinos applying for US visas.

Third, trade with the United States will be hampered.

Fourth, it will be extremely difficult to bring investments here if the United States classifies the Philippines as a terrorist haven.

All of these sound gloomy, but that is the reality after the tragedy of the Sept. 11 attack. All of the above have in fact been employed by the US government. For example, Middle-Eastern nationals, whether they were involved or not with terrorist organizations, were subject to harassment, incarceration, or even detained without any charges. Banks that had any dealings with terrorist groups are now closely scrutinized and even threatened with fines, imprisonment. And this is just the beginning.

Our politicians only think of themselves when they take up a "worthy" cause. All they want is to see their names on the front pages of Philippine newspapers. Have they no concern for what is happening to the country and our people?

—GREGORIO DIOSDADO GALICIA, paolenz@hotmail.com

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Russia's Putin takes a risk in backing US

NEWS ANALYSIS

Peter Graff

MOSCOW—President Vladimir Putin has taken a risk by firmly backing the United States since Sept. 11, but he has made a strong case that Russia no longer stands to gain from opposing its former Cold War rival.

In an interview released on Monday, five months after he lined Russia up squarely behind the United States in the face of the suicide airliner attacks, Putin made perhaps his strongest argument yet that the newfound friendship is sincere.

Analysts said the comments could not have been more timely, coming at a moment when some Russian politicians have started to complain, sotto voce, that Moscow got little in return.

"Our cooperation is the most important factor for stability in the world," Putin said of Russia-US ties.

"If you view the United States as an enemy, then of course within the framework of the international coalition against terrorism maybe one should have behaved differently."

"But if we work from the assumption that we should be partners and in the future can even become allies, then nothing we have done...would create obstructions."

Putin strongly defended his support for the deployment of US and allied troops on ex-Soviet territory in Central Asia, a move that would have been unthinkable before Sept. 11.

He also suggested that Moscow would drop its hostility to the expansion of Nato if the Western alliance improved its cooperation with Russia.

And he shrugged off President George W. Bush's speech describing Iraq, Iran and North Korea as an "axis of evil," saying he was not worried that Bush was planning to go to war.

The interview with the Wall Street Journal was aired in excerpts on Russian television on Monday. A full transcript appeared on Putin's website (www.president.kremlin.ru).

"I think it's an important statement, because it has come at a point when a lot of people have started to talk about the end of the honeymoon in the relationship," said Dmitry Trenin, defense analyst at the Moscow chapter of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"I felt the need for an authoritative statement from the Russian side, saying we will stay the course and explaining why it is in our interest to stay the course," he said.

After Sept. 11, Russia welcomed US and Nato troops into its own backyard, raising no objections as Washington deployed thousands of soldiers in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to wage war in Afghanistan.

US officials say the bases are temporary, but few in Russia believe them. The American deployments in Central Asia have only increased since the Taliban were driven from power, and some in Russia, including in the military, have grumbled.

But Putin dismissed the critics.

"Of course there are probably some—with and without epaulettes—who for political purposes or because they don't know what is going on, make some critical comments. There is nothing extraordinary in that," he said.

If one act would be all but certain to scupper any thaw in Russian-US ties, it would be a large unilateral US attack on Iraq, which some saw heralded in Bush's "axis of evil" speech.

But Putin's remarks on Iraq sounded milder than those of some Western leaders, who have warned that a new war would wreck the post-Sept. 11 coalition, Trenin said.

Putin said Moscow was committed to pressing Iraq to permit UN inspectors to make sure it was not producing weapons of mass destruction.

He repeated Russia's long-standing warning to Washington not to launch unilateral strikes on Baghdad, but said he did not think this was what Bush meant in the speech.

"(Bush) said he wouldn't wait. That's true. But he didn't say this means we will bomb tomorrow. It could mean, and we understood it as meaning, that he is ready to go on working with the international community to resolve problems we all face."

Some Russia-watchers worry that Putin will have trouble maintaining pro-Western policies while receiving little in return. Since Sept. 11, Washington has ignored Russia's objections to scrapping the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty.

The Bush administration did make a concession in arms talks last week, indicating for the first time it was willing to consider signing a document to enshrine future nuclear cuts. But conservatives in Russia will see the step as a token gesture.

Still, Trenin said Putin's pro-Western policies would face only muted public criticism as long as his domestic policies remained popular.

"What you have in foreign policy and security and defense is a lot of people who belong in a different era," Trenin said.

"They will not oppose him now while he is riding high, but should there be problems in the domestic arena...then they may decide it is time to cut Putin down to size."

Reuters

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Asian group linked to al-Qaida, hijackers

KUALA LUMPUR—When Yazid Sufaat arrived home to Malaysia after months in southern Afghanistan, police were waiting.

Authorities say his arrest has helped expose a Southeast Asian terror network that has surprised governments and security experts. They say its structure and capacities are frighteningly similar to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida organization.

Since December, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines have all announced arrests of purported cell members suspected of involvement in a plot to blow up the US Embassy in Singapore, Navy ships and other pro-Western targets in the wealthy city-state.

Philippine National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said there were indications that the militant group, which uses the name Jemaah Islamiyah, had become "very active."

Investigators say its aim is to spread radical Islam across the region—a concept with scant support among a majority of the region's Muslim residents. Indonesia and Malaysia are both Muslim-majority nations, but their governments are secular. The Philippines is mostly Roman Catholic, while Singapore is mostly Christian or Buddhist.

Malaysian authorities say that in their country, as many as 200 people are members of Kampulan Militant Malaysia, a group with ties to Jemaah Islamiyah. They include Yazid, who is suspected of training in al-Qaida camps and playing host to two of the Sept. 11 hijackers two years ago at his weekend home. He was arrested Dec. 9 as he crossed from Thailand into Malaysia.

As authorities across the region piece together information gleaned from separate investigations, they say it has become increasingly clear that the group was linked to al-Qaida and possibly hoped to emulate it.

An Indonesian man in Philippine custody since Jan. 15 told authorities there that he financed bombings that killed 22 people in Manila in December 2000 with Jemaah Islamiyah money, according to affidavits given to prosecutors Friday.

In the sworn statements, Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, 31, said he joined the group while he was a student in Pakistan in 1990-1995. His arrest led authorities two days later to more than a ton of explosives and 17 M-16 rifles in southern General Santos City in the Philippines. In the affidavits, al-Ghozi said those explosives were intended for attacks in Singapore. **AP**

Afghan civilian casualties in hundreds

KABUL—The cemetery is little more than a scattering of stones across a dusty hillside. A few tattered green flags flutter in the winter wind, marking the resting place of casualties of war.

Such grave sites are haunting reminders of civilian deaths that have scarred the US air war in Afghanistan.

But authorities have not calculated Afghanistan's civilian death toll in the war on terrorism, and the dimension of this tragedy is not fully known. Although estimates have placed the civilian dead in the thousands, a review by The Associated Press suggests the toll may be in the mid-hundreds, a figure reached by examining hospital records, visiting bomb sites and interviewing eyewitnesses and officials.

The number of confirmed deaths will surely rise as more exhaustive tallies are compiled by independent bodies. Neither the US nor the Afghan government is attempting to tally the civilian dead, but two Afghan non-governmental groups are undertaking a count. The New York-based group Human Rights Watch also plans a study.

One factor contributing to inflated estimates was the distortion of casualty reports by the Taliban regime. Afghan journalists have said Taliban officials systematically doctored reports of civilian deaths to push their estimate to 1,500 in the first three weeks of the war in an attempt to galvanize opposition to the bombing.

"Our chief was from the Taliban. His deputy from the Taliban. The information minister was from the Taliban," said one journalist, Mohammed Ismail. "We could not do our jobs. We could not tell the truth."

In the course of the air war, the US military has several times owned up to errors that killed civilians, but the Pentagon stressed repeatedly that they were never deliberately targeted. **AP**

FBI warns of possible attack in US or Yemen

WASHINGTON—The FBI warned of a possible terrorist attack as early as Tuesday in the United States or against Americans in Yemen, and investigators rushed to distribute photographs of men believed to be involved.

Police nationwide were under orders to detain any of them immediately.

The warning identified one possible attacker as Fawaz Yahya al-Rabeei, a light-skinned, 22-year-old from Yemen with Western-looking features. The FBI considered the information "credible," but it was not specific about possible targets and was not corroborated by other sources.

Officials acknowledged they did not know whether al-Rabeei was in the United States and could not be sure even that he was still alive. **AP**

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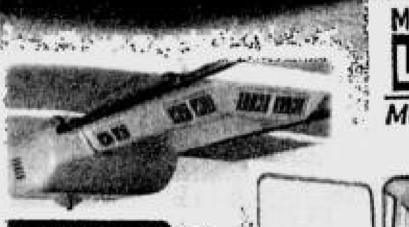
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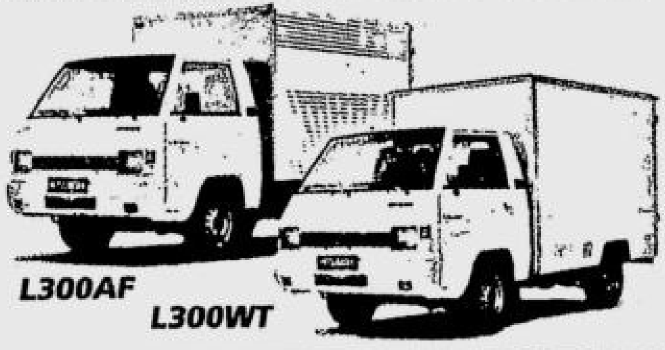
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Israelis storm West Bank town

JERUSALEM—Israeli troops raided a West Bank town early Tuesday, killing a Palestinian gunman in an exchange of fire and destroying a house before withdrawing five hours later.

Israeli media, meanwhile, reported that the military was preparing for a large-scale ground assault on Palestinian territory in the event of renewed firing of Qassam-2 rockets at Israel by the Islamic militant group Hamas.

Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said Palestinian militants raised the stakes in the Mideast conflict by firing the new, longer-range rockets into Israel.

In Tuesday's raid, an Israeli infantry unit went into the Palestinian-controlled northern outskirts of Hebron and arrested a wanted gunman from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, the Israeli military said.

During the operation, there were exchanges of fire with the Palestinians. At one point, troops spotted an armed man fleeing a building and shot him dead, the military said in a statement.

Palestinian security officials said the dead man was a member of the Palestinian National Guard.

Israeli Army bulldozers also destroyed a house, leaving a Fatah member, his wife and four children homeless. A second building was damaged, with the wall on the first floor smashed in and closets and furniture visible from the street.

In a separate raid in the same area, soldiers arrested an alleged member of the militant Islamic Jihad organization, the Army said.

The Hebron-area raid followed air strikes on Gaza City on Sunday and Monday in retaliation for the firing of a pair of Qassam-2 rockets at southern Israel.

The daily Maariv reported Tuesday that Ben-Eliezer and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon were considering establishing a so-called "security zone" in Gaza, a stretch of land reoccupied by Israel, to move the rockets out of range.

Establishing such a zone in the West Bank would be more difficult because it would require reoccupying Palestinian towns close to Israel, such as Tulkarem and Qalqiliya, Maariv quoted security officials as saying.

Sunday's rockets ploughed large craters in two farm fields. The Qassam-2 has a range of five to eight kilometers, enough to hit Israeli towns from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In the past, Hamas has fired several shorter-range Qassam-1 rockets that caused no damage.

Ben-Eliezer said the rocket attacks represented "a new level of threat."

"You try to deal with it in all sorts of ways—by intelligence, by prevention and by struggling against those places where you suspect and discover that there are factories or workshops for manufacturing those rockets," Ben-Eliezer said.

In Monday's Israeli air strike, warplanes fired six missiles into the walled Saraya security compound in downtown Gaza City, setting buildings ablaze and sending black smoke into the sky. **AP**

Warring Muslims, Christians sign truce

JAKARTA—Rival Christian and Muslim factions from Indonesia's Maluku province agreed on Tuesday to end their three-year war which has devastated the province and killed 10,000 people, a top Cabinet minister said.

The government is hoping that the accord will emulate the success of a recent truce between Christians and Muslims from Sulawesi island that succeeded in ending a similar, though smaller, sectarian conflict.

"Both sides have agreed to end all conflicts and hostilities," said Welfare Minister Yusuf Kalla, who hosted the talks in the hill town of Malino in south Sulawesi, 1,600 km northeast of Jakarta.

"There are no disagreements," he said. "They really want to end the war."

The agreement calls for the establishment of two joint commissions—for security and social and economic affairs—to monitor implementation of the truce in the province, which was known as the Spice Islands during Dutch colonial rule.

It also provides for the disarming and banning of militias, establishment of joint security patrols, and calls for the return of refugees to their homes, the return of property and the reconstruction of the province. **AP**

Int'l ban on child soldiers takes effect

GENEVA—Napoleon Adok was 11 years old when he fled Sudan and headed to a refugee camp in Ethiopia. But the camp turned out to be run by rebels who aimed to transform youngsters like Napoleon into hardened soldiers.

"I was trained for six months," Adok, today 28, told reporters Monday. "Because I knew how to write my name, I was given the rank of sergeant-major and was in charge of 200 boys aged from 9 to 15."

Adok spoke in Geneva a day before an international treaty banning the recruitment of children by national armies and rebel militias goes into effect.

He served with the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, which since 1983 has been battling successive Sudanese governments for greater autonomy and religious freedom for southerners.

"I was lured into military service," he said. "I was trained to assassinate, to lay land mines, to infiltrate enemy lines."

He said he saw his best friend die when a mine they were trying to defuse exploded.

"Child soldiers are like a land mine. We're instilled with hate and anger. It's hard to heal some of the visions that stick in my mind," Adok said.

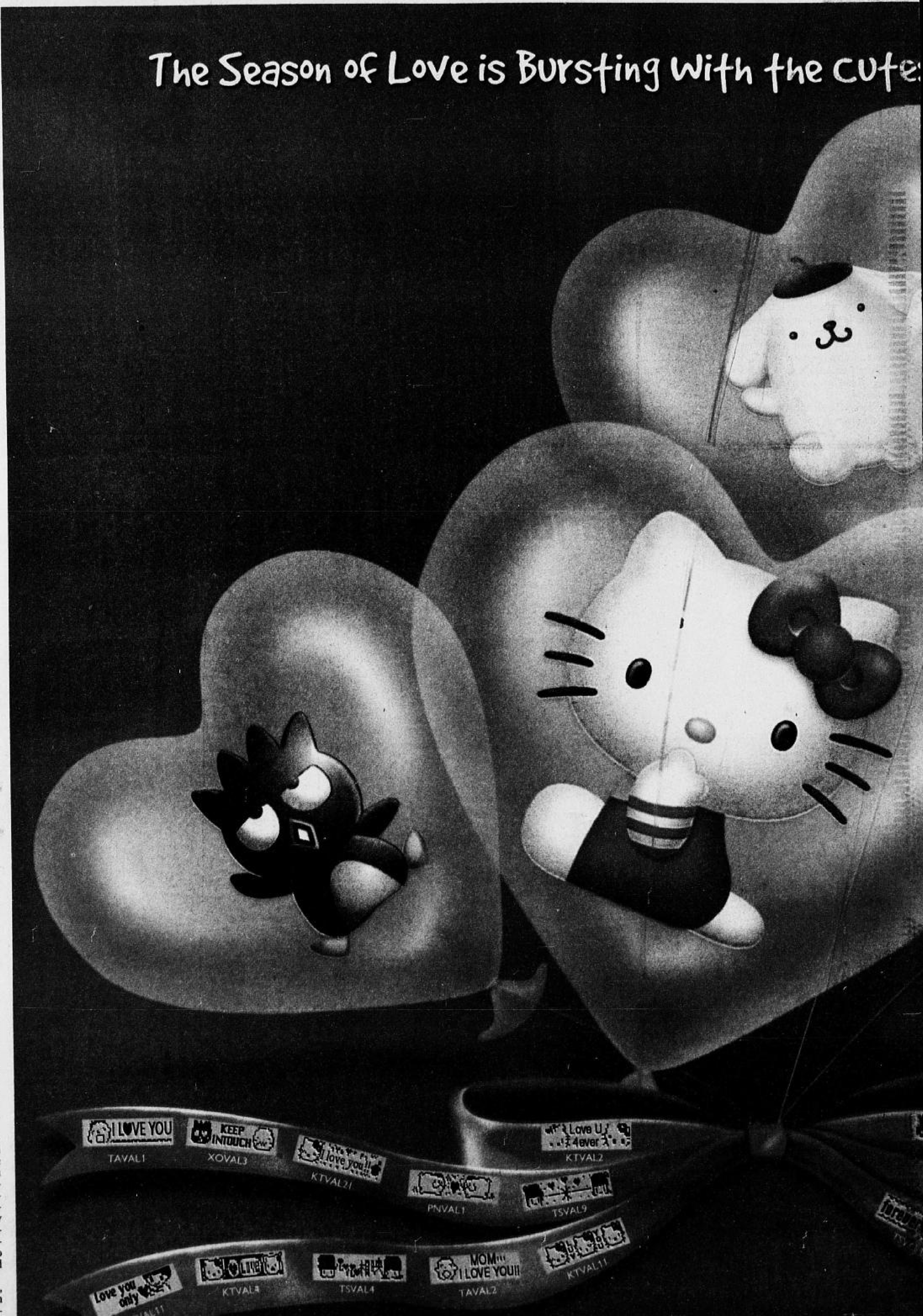
Recruited in 1984, he fought until 1991, when he became an ambulance driver. After meeting staff from the international Red Cross and Unicef, he was able to quit the SPLA and study in Kenya.

He is now an aid worker, helping ex-child soldiers.

The United Nations estimates that more than 300,000 children under the age of 18 are fighting worldwide, mostly with rebel groups. Most are between 15 and 17 years old, but some are as young as 7. Most have been kidnapped.

"Where once children were recruited because of a shortage of adults, children have been increasingly recruited because they are children," said Rory Mungoven, coordinator of the London-based Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers.

"They are cheap, obedient, they can be easily brainwashed into committing extreme violence."



Milosevic's genocide trial opens

THE HAGUE—Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic went on trial Tuesday before a United Nations tribunal, accused of overseeing the murder of thousands of people and the displacement of more than a million in three Balkan wars.

Milosevic looked calm and glanced around the courtroom as the court registrar opened the proceedings by reading the case number: IT0254T.

Chief Prosecutor Carla del Ponte began her argument, after the presiding judge Richard May thanked her for pruning more than 1,000 exhibits from her case.

"Today, as never before, we see international justice in action," the Swiss prosecutor said.

Del Ponte said Milosevic was on trial for crimes of "medieval savagery and calculated cruelty." His case, she said, would be a powerful demonstration that "no one is above the law" or beyond the reach of justice.

Milosevic "pursued his ambition at the price of unspeakable suffering to those who opposed him," Del Ponte said. All his actions were "in the service of his quest for power."

Milosevic was on trial for his individual actions, and the tribunal was not judging the Serb people as a whole, Del Ponte argued.

"No state or organization is on trial here today," she said, anticipating Milosevic's defense that the trial was directed against the Serb nation.

Del Ponte said she believed her task was to "allow the voice of the victims to be heard. Many of the victims cannot come to you because they did not survive."

The trial against the former Yugoslav president for alleged atrocities during the breakup of Yugoslavia is Europe's most important war crimes case since the Nuremberg proceedings against Nazi Germany's leaders after World War II.

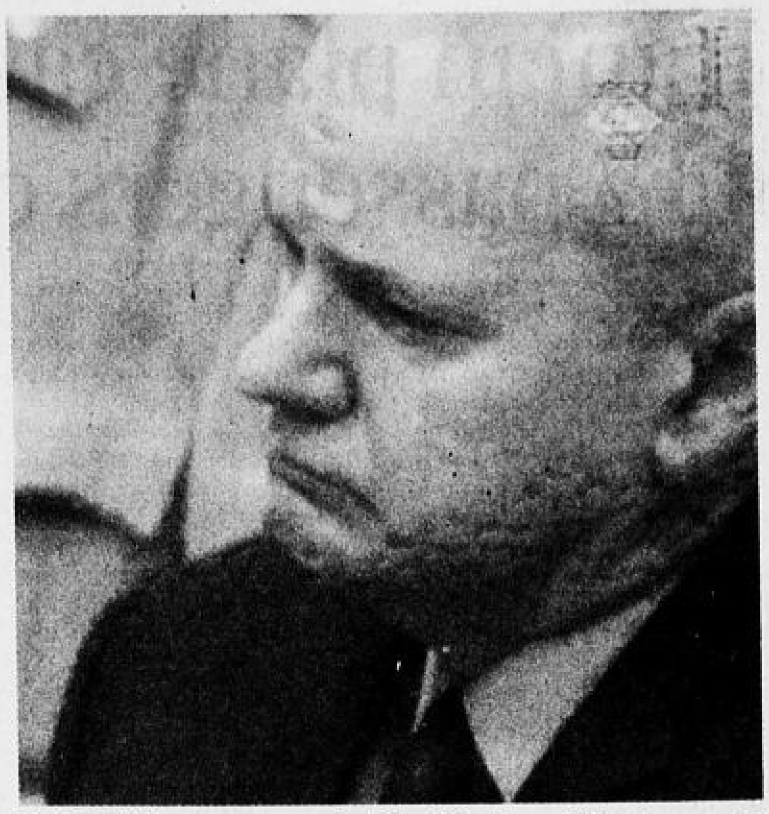
Milosevic, 60, is the first head of state indicted for war crimes while in office.

In a pretrial brief on Kosovo made available Monday, Swiss prosecutor Del Ponte said the prosecution's evidence "will lead to an irrefutable inference that the natural and foreseeable consequences" of Milosevic's actions was "the murder of thousands of ethnic Albanians, sexual assaults of Kosovo Albanian civilians and the destruction of religious and cultural property."

Among the dozens of witnesses she intended to call is Kosovo Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova and the former US head of a Kosovo peacekeeping mission, William Walker. Many others were to appear as protected witnesses whose identities will not be disclosed in public or in the courtroom.

The Milosevic case is the culmination of years of investigation and case files compiled since the Yugoslav tribunal was set up by the United Nations in 1993 to try those responsible for the violent collapse of the Balkans.

The former Serb leader is charged with 66 counts of atrocities from the wars in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo. Prosecutors say he was behind a systematic plan to create a larger Serb state through the forced expulsion and murder of non-Serbs. *AP*



MILOSEVIC listens to case against him at The Hague tribunal. AP

Hitler's secretary speaks up

BERLIN—During Traudl Junge's three years as one of Adolf Hitler's secretaries, most of Europe's Jews died at the hands of the Nazis and World War II was at its height.

In a new documentary, Junge, now an ailing 81-year-old, admitted she was taken with the magnetic power of Hitler when, at 22, she applied for the job. It was only after the war, when she learned what many already knew, that she felt wracked with guilt for having liked the "greatest criminal who ever lived."

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean and founder of the Nazi watchdog group the Simon Wiesenthal Center, called Junge's recollections "sheer fantasy."

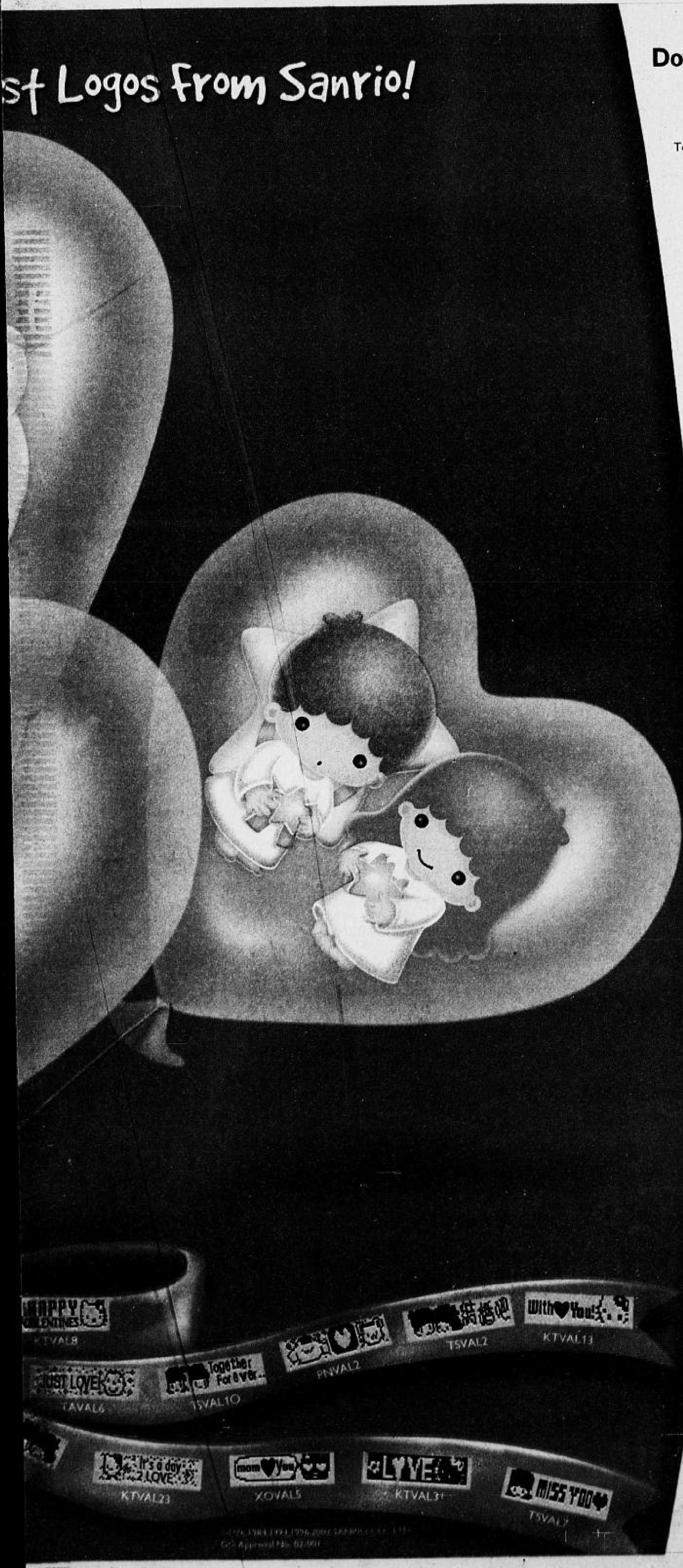
"In the history of the Third Reich the argument is always the same among those in the close circle around Hitler. They never heard the horrible things. That is all basically revisionism," he said.

"The way he got into power and maintained power was the war against the Jews. Everyone who came into contact with him heard him rant and rave about the Jews. Everyone heard that language," Hier said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press from Los Angeles.

"Blind Spot: Hitler's Secretary," presented this week at the Berlin International Film Festival, shows an elegant, white-haired Junge lucidly recalling in an interview in her one-room Munich apartment the events more than 50 years ago.

Another Wiesenthal Center officials said Junge's gullibility was symptomatic of attitudes in Germany during Hitler's rule.

"The important thing here is not whether she knew what was happening or heard it mentioned. Those crimes were definitely committed. Her story reflects the blind loyalty of far too many Germans whose allegiance to Hitler and the Nazi party enabled the implementation of the final solution," said Efraim Zuroff, director of the Israeli office of the Wiesenthal Center. *AP*



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Iranian plane carrying 117 passengers crashes

TEHRAN, Iran—An Iranian passenger plane carrying a least 117 people crashed Tuesday in the snowy mountains of western Iran near Khorramabad, officials said.

No details on the number injured or killed were immediately available, nor was there information on the cause of the crash.

Reza Jaafarzadeh, a spokesperson for the Civil Aviation Organization of Iran, said at least 117 passenger and crew were aboard the plane, flight No. 956.

"Several search teams have been dispatched to the region," Jaafarzadeh said.

An official at the Khorramabad governor's office said the plane had not been found but searchers had identified the mountainous, snow-covered area of the crash near Khorramabad, about 375 km southwest of the capital.

Iranian television reported that the plane crashed into the Sefid Kouh mountains, 25 km west of Khorramabad.

The Tu-154, a Russian-made Tupolev operated by state-owned Iran Air Tours, left Tehran at 7:30 a.m. headed for Khorramabad, state radio reported.

Residents of a village near Khorramabad heard a "big explosion" and fire after the Tupolev went down, the radio said.

The television reported that President Mohammad Khatami ordered the formation of an emergency committee to investigate the cause of the crash.

It added that a team of experts from the transportation ministry was dispatched to Khorramabad.

Minutes before crashing, the plane lost contact with the control tower at Khorramabad airport, the television said.

Iran Air Tours, a subsidiary of state carrier Iran Air, in recent years has leased mostly Russian-made Tupolev planes with Russian crew.

A Russian-built aircraft, a YAK-40 operated by the private Faraz Qeshm Airlines crashed in northeastern Iran in May, killing the transport minister and about 30 other passengers including seven lawmakers. They were on their way to Gorgan, near the Caspian Sea, to inaugurate that city's airport.

Iran also has an aging fleet of US-made Boeings purchased before the 1979 Islamic revolution. The United States has refused to provide spare parts for Boeing planes as part of its wide-ranging economic sanctions against Iran.

Iran has said the US stance on spare parts endangered the lives of innocent passengers.

In recent years, Iran has purchased a small number of Airbus passenger planes. *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, February 13, 2002
Ash Wednesday

1st Reading: Joel 2:12-18
2nd Reading: 2 Cor 5:20—6:2
Gospel: Mt 6: 1-6, 16-18

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be careful not to make a show of your righteousness before people. If you do so, you do not gain anything from your Father in heaven. When you give something to the poor, do not have it trumpeted before you, as do those who want to be seen in the synagogues and in the streets in order to be praised by the people. I assure you, they have been already paid in full.

If you give something to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your gift remains really secret. Your Father who sees what is kept secret, will reward you.

When you pray, do not be like those who want to be seen. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues or on street corners to be seen by everyone. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is with you in secret; and your Father who sees what is kept secret will reward you.

When you fast, do not put on a miserable face as do the hypocrites. They put on a gloomy face, so people can see they are fasting. I tell you this: they have been paid in full already. When you fast, wash your face and make yourself look cheerful, because you are not fasting for appearances or for people, but for your Father who sees beyond appearances. And your Father, who sees what is kept secret will reward you.

Commentary

Congratulations! So many things competing for your attention, yet you've still chosen to listen to what is quieter and deeper within you on this first day of Lent! "Come back to me with all your heart... turn to the Lord your God again." More than 2000 years ago hearts were stirred by these words of prophet Joel. In the year 2002 other wanderers will pause and listen in their turn. Times may change, but in every human heart there comes a time of longing for home. Welcome to Lent, the season of homecoming!

"Come home, my daughter, my son. I'm here waiting for you, eagerly watching for you."

"Come home? How? What shall I do?"

"Be a friend to someone who has little.
Fast from something, making space to listen and pray.
Tell no one.
Begin today."

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

MERCANTILE LAW (CORPORATION LAW)—Doctrine of piercing the corporate veil—It is dicta in corporation law that a corporation is a juridical person with a separate and distinct personality from that of the stockholders or members who compose it. However, when the legal fiction of the separate corporate personality is abused, such as when the same is used for fraudulent or wrongful ends, the courts have not hesitated to pierce the corporate veil. "If any general rule can be laid down, in the present state of authority, it is that a corporation will be looked upon as a legal entity as a general rule, and until sufficient reason to the contrary appears; but, when the notion of legal entity is used to defeat public convenience, justify wrong, protect fraud, or defend crime, the law will regard the corporation as an association of persons." (United States v. Milwaukee Refrigerator Transit Co. 142 Fed. 247 [1905]) [Citations omitted.] [Reference: Umali v. Court of Appeals, 189 SCRA 529 (1990)] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, Francisco v. Mejia, G.R. No. 141617, August 14, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Cambodia dismayed by UN pullout

PHNOM PENH—Cambodia expressed "dismay" Tuesday at the United Nations' decision to pull out of a genocide tribunal for Khmer Rouge leaders, but gave no indication it will amend its laws to suit the world body.

Sok An, the government's chief negotiator with the United Nations on the tribunal, said in a public statement that the UN decision resulted from "certain misinterpretations of Cambodia's positions."

After nearly five years of negotiations, the United Nations announced Friday it won't take part in a proposed tribunal to be run by Cambodian and foreign judges and prosecutors. The United Nations said the tribunal, as outlined under Cambodian law, would not be impartial or be able to meet international standards.

"I must express my dismay at this completely unexpected announcement," Sok An said in a written statement, which he was scheduled to read out at a news conference later Tuesday. An advance copy was obtained by The Associated Press.

The UN decision and the Cambodian government's intransigence have raised concerns that the Khmer Rouge leaders will never be brought to justice for their atrocities. *AP*

CROWDS along a downtown Hong Kong road watch as young dancers, one wearing a horse headgear, from the Dance A Lili Dance Academy perform during the annual Chinese New Year parade on Tuesday. The parade is part of the celebrations held throughout the territory during the three-day holiday marking the start of the Chinese Year of the Horse. AP

Prayers, fireworks, parades usher in Year of the Horse

BEIJING—Millions clapped their hands in prayer and burned incense sticks at Buddhist and Taoist temples across the Chinese-speaking world Tuesday as part of celebrations to usher in the lunar Year of the Horse.

The visits followed a night of popping firecrackers, clanging gongs and colorful dragon dances in cities and Chinatowns throughout Asia. Images of horses—a symbol of strength and success—appeared on skyscrapers, billboards and parade floats around the region.

In some areas, the approach of midnight on Monday—and with it the year 2002 by the traditional lunar calendar—brought a roar of fireworks explosions strong enough to rattle windows and shake homes.

Beijing's night sky burst with red, yellow and green as residents set off private displays of fireworks, ignoring a ban that outlawed fireworks in all but a few public places.

It was quieter Tuesday morning, when thousands gathered within the red-painted walls of Yonghegong Tibetan Buddhist temple—one of several temples in the Chinese capital thronged with revelers.

Children were dressed in head-to-toe red, blue or yellow satin embroidered suits. Adults also wore brightly colored Chinese jackets as they placed incense sticks into large bronze cauldrons and summoned the gods by clapping their hands. Traditional prayers call for health, wealth and a peaceful life.

Others stayed home to watch a 24-hour music show featuring patriotic songs by uniformed army choirs and troupes of costumed children waving flags with military precision.

In China's modern commercial hub of Shanghai, cell phone networks struggled to keep up with almost 4 million calls and messages from New Years well-wishers in the 30 minutes around midnight, the Jiefang Daily newspaper reported.

Despite the festivities, some Chinese astrologers warned the Year of the Horse will be a "blind year"—a bad time in world economics and politics when couples should avoid getting married.

"Financially this year is very bad, because of our big brother, America," said Kuan Siew Meow, an ethnic Chinese astrologer in Singapore. "In Afghanistan, it will continue through the year. In the Year of the Horse I don't see any immediate peace." *AP*

Probers say Clintons got $75,000 worth of expensive gifts from friends

WASHINGTON—Expensive gifts poured into the Clinton White House in the weeks between Hillary Rodham Clinton's election to the Senate from New York and her swearing-in last year, according to a new congressional investigation.

Seventeen separate gifts of china, cutlery and furniture worth more than $75,000 arrived in December 2000 alone, a time when the Clintons were looking to furnish two newly purchased homes, one each in Washington and Chappaqua, New York, Republican investigators said.

The timing of the gifts had not been made public before. As a senator, Mrs. Clinton is prohibited from accepting most gifts worth more than $50. But since the presents arrived while she still was first lady, no such limit applied.

The Clintons took with them $360,000 worth of large gifts when they left the White House in January 2001, according to the yearlong investigation by a House Government Reform subcommittee. The Clintons also left with additional gifts too small to trigger public disclosure.

Investigators alleged the Clintons undervalued dozens of gifts, including a suit from Yves Saint Laurent reported as being worth $249, a dollar below what was then the threshold for public disclosure. The investigators did not say how much they believe the suit was worth.

Dozens of gifts were labeled "lost" or "misplaced" in the records investigators examined, including a $4,200 18-karat gold saxophone pin and a $1,200 rug from Pakistan.

The gifts were the subject of a hearing Tuesday intended to bolster support for legislation that would change the rules governing gifts to presidents. Rep. Doug Ose, the panel's chair and the bill's author, wants to consolidate responsibility for receiving, cataloging and storing gifts in one government office. Now, six agencies are involved.

The National Park Service, one of the agencies, already has tightened its policy for accepting donations. *AP*

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Trader seized, freed; P6-M ransom paid

ANGELES CITY—A Chinese-Filipino businessman was kidnapped but was immediately released last week after his family paid his abductors at least P6 million in ransom, INQUIRER sources in the Chinese-Filipino community here said.

Mayor Carmelo Lazatin on Tuesday confirmed receiving similar reports. He said, however, that there was "still no official confirmation" from the police on the kidnapping of Ricardo Tan, the owner of the Jenra chain of grocery and department stores in the city.

Tan and his family were mum about the incident, Lazatin said.

Supt. Arturo Cacdac, Angeles City police director, said he had "no information" on Tan's abduction or on his abductors.

But Lazatin took Cacdac with him on Tuesday to the regional police headquarters in Camp Olivas in the City of San Fernando to demand an investigation of the incident.

Lazatin also wanted to meet with Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police director, to help "end the spate of kidnappings, holdups, illegal drug trade and other crimes" in the city.

Cacdac said he could not provide details, explaining that the Tan family did not report the incident to the police.

The sources contacted local reporters on Tuesday to air their fears over Tan's kidnapping and the abduction of Filipino-Chinese businesswoman Amelita Yang-Cesar last Jan. 31.

The two incidents, which had occurred within two weeks, had alarmed Filipino-Chinese in the city, the sources said.

Tan, reportedly held for a day, was released unharmed. Cesar's family reportedly paid P8 million. The Department of Justice's National Anti-Kidnap-for-Ransom Task Force, which reported the rescue of Cesar in Tarlac, did not confirm if the family indeed paid the ransom.

Cacdac said the Cesars "did not cooperate" with the city police.

Until the abduction of Cesar and Tan, no kidnapping incident happened in this city in the last three years.

But crimes against businessmen here have risen since last year, police reports showed.

On Sunday night, still unidentified suspects killed Abrenico Tongol after robbing his store on busy Miranda Street here.

The source also expressed anxiety over the "unsolved kidnappings" of a Chinese-Filipino trader in Tarlac and another in Dagupan City.

Lazatin said he was meeting the leaders and members of the city's Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday night to address their concerns over the incidents. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

DECS chief says bill exempting teachers from poll duty gaining support in House

By Raj Padilla
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROCO

ILOILO CITY—A bill seeking to exempt public school teachers from election duties is gaining ground at the House of Representatives.

Education Secretary Raul Roco said that at least 80 congressmen were supporting the bill, which was filed last December.

The bill's principal sponsors in the House included Speaker Jose de Venecia and Sorsogon Rep. Sulpicio "Cho" Roco Jr., the secretary's younger brother.

In the Senate, Roco said he already sought the help of Senators Rene Cayetano, Edgardo Angara and Blas Ople to get the bill passed but no commitment had been made. Cayetano chairs the Senate committee on education.

"If it is approved, we will separate teaching from politics. We'll bring back what we did during President (Ramon) Magsaysay's time when it was the college students who were tapped to man our voting precincts," Roco said.

Roco was one of the invited guests of Mayor Jesry Palmares of Passi City, Iloilo, which celebrated its fiesta last Sunday.

The pending bill seeks to amend the provision of the Omnibus Election Code that requires public school teachers to man voting precincts during elections.

But Roco said college students should man the polling precincts because they are "more idealistic" than the public school teachers. The students, he added, could not also be easily manipulated by the politicians.

"Second, (the college students) have no vested interests. If you're a third or fourth year student, in the next elections, *wala ka na*. With them, there's always a new group watching the elections," Roco said.

He said teachers have permanent assignments during elections "so every politician will always try to get them on their side."

"I do not know of any country where it's the public school teacher who counts the votes," he added.

Roco said his proposal already earned the backing of Church-based organizations and the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel).

The proposal, he added, has been endorsed during the National Socio-Economic Summit in Manila late last year.

Roco earlier said he wanted the teachers freed from non-teaching duties such as manning election precincts, serving in the board of election inspectors, and doing survey work.

"Years of using the teachers for elections have made them vulnerable to threats, physical harm and corruption," said Roco.

He noted that during the time of President Magsaysay, the students were deputized during the elections especially those enrolled in the Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Filipino staff member of late princess says queen's sis loved RP shell craft

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Unknown to many Filipinos, the late Princess Margaret has kept a collection of shell craft and among her favorites were those from the Philippines especially those given by former First Lady Imelda Marcos.

Lillie Piccio, 60, a Bacolod native who is a member of the Royal Staff of the princess, said her employer had always prized the two vases of miniature flowers made of shells and the two marble roosters given by Ms Marcos and the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

The flower arrangements were given to the princess in 1965 when Ferdinand Marcos was first elected president. Princess Margaret had since placed the two at the base of a stairway of an apartment in Kensington Palace where she lived.

Unique items

The other shell craft in the princess' collection are from Bacolod, Cebu and Bohol and Mindanao, Piccio said. "They are unique items, some of which I have not even seen back home," she told the INQUIRER Monday.

The princess placed her collections in shelves in her library and her equerry room.

"The princess told me (that) she loved the Philippines but was sad about the many poor people she saw on the side of the road during a visit to the country," Piccio said. She, however, could not recall when Princess Margaret went to the country.

Princess Margaret, the younger sister of the reigning Queen Elizabeth, died on Saturday at the King Edward VII Hospital after suffering her fourth stroke in three years. She was 71. Her children were by her bedside when she died, said Piccio.

Her body was placed in a sealed casket, which was placed in her bedroom. She will be buried this Friday beside her father, King George, at the Windsor Palace, Piccio said.

Piccio said only members of the royal family and the royal staff as well as close friends are allowed to pay their respects.

Princess' wish

She said it had been the princess' wish to have a private wake and funeral. "(Princess Margaret) did not want a lot of flowers and a royal procession. She just wanted a simple funeral," Piccio said.

"Now we are very worried about the Queen Mother who is 101. (She) is very fragile (and) has not been well," Piccio said. "We heard that she is very depressed over her daughter's death."

The Queen Mother is at the royal estate in Sandringham, Piccio said.

"We are hoping and praying nothing will happen to her, too," she said, as it would not be a nice thing to happen during the golden jubilee of the queen.

Piccio recalled that she learned about Princess Margaret's death on TV last Sunday. She immediately called the Palace but no one was answering the phones.

Finally she reached Princess Margaret's butler, Harold Brown, who confirmed the details of the princess death.

Everyone in the royal staff was sad about the princess' death because she had been looking forward to the golden jubilee celebration of her sister, Queen Elizabeth, this year.

"That is why even if she had been ill, we did not expect her to pass away," Piccio said.

Piccio described the princess as very royal in her ways and a kind and compassionate woman.

"Princess Maragaret was a very generous, loving and motherly person," she said.

"If members of her staff had problems she would take time to listen and give advise, and at Christmas she would ask what we wanted and then we were told to go to her offices to tell her people to buy our gift," she said.

Royal party

Every Christmas, Piccio said she would hold a party for the royal household and give them presents that they wanted.

Piccio had worked for Princess Diana for 16 years until her death in 1997. Among her last tasks was to draw the drapes at the bedroom of the beloved princess.

After Princess Diana died, Piccio said she worked on the staff of rock star Bryan Adams for a year. She then got a call from Buckingham Palace, asking if she would like to work for Princess Margaret, which she readily accepted.

Asked what she would do after the death of the princess, she said the royal household would be called to a meeting after the funeral where they would be given a choice of where they wanted to work among the royal homes.

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REGULAR P5000 SALE P2998

COFFEE TABLE w/ 2 CHAIRS
REGULAR P3000 SALE P1498

*COMPUTER TABLE
REGULAR P2750 SALE P1375

*OFFICE TABLE w/ 3 SIDE DRAWERS
REGULAR P3000 SALE P1498

*4-SEATER DINING SET
REGULAR P7000 SALE P4698

6-SEATER DINING SET
REGULAR P10450 SALE P7998

COMPUTER CHAIR w/o ARMS
REGULAR P1300 SALE P648

VISITOR'S CHAIR w/o ARMS
REGULAR P1570 SALE P998

EXECUTIVE CHAIR, LOW BACK
REGULAR P5400 SALE P2698

QUEEN BEDFRAME w/ 1-FOAM, 4x60x75
REGULAR P7200 SALE P3598

SINGLE BED w/ PULL-OUT w/ 2-FOAM, 4x36x75
REGULAR P7200 SALE P3598

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REGULAR P12000 SALE P5998

BUNKBED BEDFRAME 36x54x75 w/ 2-FOAM (1-4x36, 1-4x54)
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PEARL PLAZA Parañaque City Tel. 851-8401
RIVERBANKS Marikina City Tel. 941-5003
GEN. TRIAS Cavite Tel. 419-1150

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern sections of the country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI30° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 22° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 19°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 19°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 26° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 23°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 20°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/02/13/02

ROUNDUP

Public market gets P1.5M

TAGBILARAN CITY—The provincial government has appropriated an initial P1.5 million to help the municipal government of Tubigon cope with last Monday's dawn fire that gutted the town's public market. The aid might be too small to rebuild the market, as the fire damage was placed at P80 million, but Tubigon officials said they are still grateful. The municipal council has earlier declared the town under a state of calamity to enable the local government to use its calamity fund to assist fire victims. ***Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Elderly killed in fire

CEBU CITY—A 70-year-old woman was killed in a fire traced to a firecracker explosion that destroyed her home in Sitio Avocado, Barangay Mambaling this city on Saturday. Susana Navarro, a firecracker distributor who had used her home as a warehouse for her pyrotechnics products, had gone out of her house when the fire started around 7 p.m. to bring to safety her 5-year-old granddaughter. But she was trapped in her burning house when she returned to retrieve her jewelry and other valuable belongings, fire investigators said. ***Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Rob gang head nabbed

ILAGAN, Isabela—Police arrested on Thursday the suspected leader of a robbery and theft gang operating in the province. Efren Sinsano of Cauayan City is the leader of the Manalili Group that police said was responsible for several robberies and car thefts in Isabela. Sinsano is facing charges of robbery, homicide and car theft in various courts in the province. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

2 police officers relieved

ILAGAN, Isabela—Two police officials in Isabela were relieved for their failure to immediately solve a robbery case in Roxas town last week. Supt. Nelson Nario, Isabela police director, relieved Supt. Severino Abad Jr., Roxas police director, and Supt. Jerry Cortez, 2nd provincial police mobile group director. The police officers were replaced by their respective deputies, Nario said. Last week, six armed men took P100,000 and assorted medicines from the Roxas branch of Mercury Drug. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

NGO office robbed

BAGUIO CITY—Burglars broke into the office of a people's organization here on Thursday night, police said. Reports said the burglars took two computers, three printers, a Nikon camera worth P20,000 and documents from the office of the Itogon Inter-Barangay Alliance on Brent Road here. The IIB-A shares the same office with Bayan Muna-Itogon and the Mining Communities and Development Center. Eduardo Daniel, IIB-A chair, said there was a "political motive" behind the break-in and this might be related to their ongoing campaign against the San Roque dam project. ***PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Water for 6 towns

CALAPAN CITY—Six Oriental Mindoro towns received water quality testing kits as part of a P115-million water system project that will be implemented in five years starting this year. It is expected to benefit 418 water system sites in the province. Provincial planning and development officer Mely Manalo said the project is funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and the local governments. ***Donna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

GSP membership down

CALAPAN CITY—Membership in the Girl Scouts of the Philippines has declined, GSP national president Cynthia Zagala said during the Scouts' 4th Regional Council Meeting here recently. "In its 61 years of outstanding performance in promoting the welfare of the youth and women, it is only now that the GSP experienced a decline in membership," Zagala said, The meeting was participated in by 53 council presidents and executives from the Southern Luzon region and attended by GSP regional chair Corazon Honrado, national executive director Gloria Echaluce and Calapan Council president Estrellita Dolor. ***Donna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Atienza, 88

ESPERANZA Atienza, a retired public school teacher in Calapan City, died at 4:20 a.m. yesterday of a lingering illness. She is survived by her sister Perla Tenedora; children Ponching, Flor, Deling, Junior, Juliet, Mila and Sonia; and grandchildren, including Dennis Maliwanag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau correspondent. Her body lies at the Funeraria Fortus in Calapan City.

CONDITION FOR HOSTAGES' RELEASE

NPAs seek halt to Army operations

By Agnes E. Donato

THE COMMUNIST New People's Army expressed willingness to release four government intelligence agents it has taken hostage but on condition that the military and police suspend operations against rebels in southern Mindanao.

Dencio Madrigal, head of the NPA Far South Mindanao Command, said his group would not release its four "prisoners of war" until the government pulls out the five Philippine Army battalions it had deployed to southern Mindanao provinces.

The Army battalions were reportedly sent to Mindanao as part of the government's efforts to rescue Sgt. Jeremias Rosete of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Intelligence Service and intelligence agents Pepito Simbulan, Wilfredo Maldecir and Herminia Sorongon.

"But these offensives yield nothing except the forced evacuation of civilians caught in the military operations," Madrigal said in a press statement.

He said at least 69 families were displaced after the 25th Infantry Battalion fired mortars at suspected rebel positions in Barangay Sinapulan, Columbio, Sultan Kudarat. Most of these natives, he added, were now seeking refuge in an evacuation center while others were living with relatives in nearby barangays.

He added that the military used civilians as human shields during its search and rescue operations in Tulunan, North Cotabato by positioning teams inside houses in at least four barangays.

"These operations are conducted despite the repeated call of various humanitarian groups headed by Bishop Deunildo Gutierrez to declare a suspension of military and police operations to pave the way for the safe release of the four prisoners," Madrigal said.

He also said that no effort had been made on the part of the government to negotiate for the release of Sgt. Rosete and his companions.

THE FOUR "prisoners of war"—(from left) Herminia Sorogon, Wilfredo Maldecir, Pepito Simbulan and Sgt. Jeremias Rosete. RODOLFO SORIANO

W. Visayas firms close, lay off 5,000 workers

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—More than 5,000 workers in the private sector in Western Visayas lost their jobs last year, government statistics showed.

The Department of Labor and Employment regional office recorded 56 firms that shut down and 109 that laid off workers.

A total of 5,398 workers lost their jobs.

Negros Occidental had the highest number of businesses badly hit by last year's economic slump, with 121 firms deciding to downsize or halt operations. Iloilo followed with 39 companies that shut down. Two firms each in Guimaras and Aklan laid off workers while one firm in Antique closed.

Negros Occidental also had the highest number of laid off workers with 3,922, followed by Iloilo with 1,405 and Guimaras with 43.

The Dole records showed that most of the badly hit companies (137) cited economic reasons for the retrenchments.

Most of the workers who lost their jobs (3,231) were from firms that shut down while 2,167 were from firms that reduced their workforce.

Most of the firms that laid off workers were in the wholesale and retail trade (41), finance, insurance, real estate and business services (28) and community, social and personal services (27). The rest were in the agricultural, fishery and forestry, mining and quarrying, and manufacturing sectors, among others.

Most of the laid-off workers came from the finance, insurance, real estate and business services (1,092), manufacturing sector (1,084) and the agricultural, fishery and forestry sectors (689).

Last year's figures, however, were an improvement compared to that of the year 2000 when 7,746 workers lost their jobs after 183 firms either shut down or retrenched workers.

The Labor Force Survey of the National Statistics Office in October placed the labor force in the region at 2.726 million. The number of employed workers reached 2.5 million, 7 percent higher than the 2.32 million recorded for the same period in 2000.

The employment rate for the region was also slightly higher than the national average of 90.2 percent. Among the region's provinces, Guimaras had the highest employment rate at 93.9 percent followed by Capiz (93.2 percent), Negros Occidental (92.3 percent), Aklan (90.3 percent), Iloilo (89.2 percent) and Antique (87.7 percent).

CEASE-AND-DESIST ORDER

Telecoms tower dragged into boundary war

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The Cordillera office of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) issued a cease-and-desist order to stop the construction of a telecommunications tower at Mt. Polis in the disputed border of Ifugao and Mt. Province.

Leilene Carantes-Gallardo, NCIP regional chair, said the order would be in effect until the Smart Telephone Inc., the tower's owner, could get the "free and prior informed consent" of residents there.

"Until their consent is not given, the people can ask for the immediate suspension of the project," Gallardo said.

The telecommunications tower is almost finished, it was learned.

Residents of the village of Bayyo in Bontoc, Mt. Province , through their barangay council, filed a resolution against the construction of the tower after they were not consulted on the project.

"The Indigenous Peoples Rights Act provides for a bundle of rights, including getting the free and prior informed consent of residents," barangay officials said.

The village of Viewpoint in Banaue, Ifugao, was consulted by Smart, the Bayyo villagers claimed.

Initial investigation made by Mt. Province officials showed that the tower was within the boundary of Bayyo.

Residents of Bayyo and Viewpoint are involved in a boundary dispute since last year when the Ifugao villagers accosted a Bontoc man in charge of guarding the tower site.

The Viewpoint villagers accused the man of clearing the area for his *kaingin*.

The villagers have asked their officials to clear the border issue but the dispute has yet to be solved.

Smart and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. had no problem with the construction of the towers in Bontoc and Sagada, both in Mt. Province, as these were built without strong opposition.

The Bontoc tower, set up in Mt. Agturao, was inaugurated in September last year, while the tower in Sagada was inaugurated last month.

The Sagada cell site tower can reach the towns of Sabangan, Bauko, Tadian and Besao, all in Mt. Province. ***Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Fire razes 2 buildings of Ormoc's biggest school

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

ORMOC CITY—Two buildings of the Ormoc Central School were destroyed by fire about 3 p.m. on Monday.

No one was reported injured in the fire, which destroyed the school library and a two-story building that housed six classrooms. Damage to property, including books, had reached P10 million.

Lilia Maglasang, Ormoc Central School assistant principal, said the teachers were in a conference when they heard shouts that a fire had broken out.

She said they immediately evacuated at least 300 pupils, who were attending classes at the two-story building, to the sports oval.

The building was at the back of the library where the fire started. The Ormoc Central School is the biggest public school in this city with about 3,500 students.

Maglasang said school librarian Amparo Miro was inside the library when she heard an explosion and then saw bursts of flames.

Fire Chief Senior Insp. Neopito Salinas said they received the fire alarm at 3:35 p.m. from their sub-station, about a kilometer from the fire scene.

The blaze, he added, was already big when the fire fighters arrived. "Probably, the teachers were not able to call immediately because they (had to evacuate first) the students," said Salinas.

Mayor Carmelo Locsin, who was at the fire scene, said the city government would have to look for temporary rooms for the displaced students.

"We will (have to) look for temporary rooms before we can decide what aid we can give to the school," Locsin told the INQUIRER.

Bomb found at Cebu air base; security tightened

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Security has been tightened at the Mactan Benito Ebuen Airbase (MBEAB) after a homemade Molotov bomb was found near its Gate 1 in Lapulapu City, Mactan Island, Cebu, on Sunday.

Capt. Enrico Canaya, spokesperson of the airbase's Tactical Operation Command, told the INQUIRER yesterday that they have doubled security in the airbase while investigation is ongoing to determine the motive and identities of the person or persons who placed the bomb near the gate.

A resident found the bomb at 3:30 p.m. last Sunday and immediately turned it over to the security personnel manning Gate 1.

The bomb was brought to the airbase's bomb disposal unit. It was later detonated inside the MBEAB.

Canaya said he believed the bomb was not meant to cause damage to the airbase or cause injury to Philippine Air Force personnel.

"(The bomb) was meant to send a message... because it was placed just outside the base, near the gate," he told the INQUIRER over the phone.

Canaya, however, declined to comment if any particular group had been identified as possible suspect in the bomb scare. He also refused to comment when asked if the bomb was connected to the RP-US Balikatan Exercises.

But he admitted that the joint military exercise was among those "considered" as possible motives being looked into by the air police squadron, which was tasked to conduct the investigation.

The MBEAB has been tapped as a maintenance base for the United States aircraft participating in the US-RP Balikatan Exercise.

At least 200 American soldiers, mainly specialists on aircraft maintenance, were expected to arrive at the MBEAB in mid-February to act as support crew to US soldiers participating in the Balikatan exercises.

But militant groups had conducted demonstrations outside the gate of the airbase to express their opposition against the joint exercises, which they claimed were unconstitutional.

A scuffle between the protesters and the Philippine Air Force personnel ensued during a rally near the airbase gate last month.

Bayan Central Visayas head Paul Rodriguez said eight of their members were hurt during the scuffle after some Air Force personnel blocked the ralliers while they were trying to get nearer to the gate.

2 foreign journalists reveal attempt to abduct them

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Two foreign journalists claimed they thwarted an attempted kidnapping on Saturday while on their way to Basilan, the military said Monday.

Col. Fredesvindo Covarrubias, spokesperson for the RP-US Combined Information Bureau (CIB) for the Balikatan here, said that Jamal Hamden, an Egyptian, and Christopher Johnson, a Canadian, both freelance writers, informed him of the supposed kidnapping attempt.

Covarrubias said the two journalists claimed that they were at the Zamboanga port when two unidentified men approached them and offered to accompany them to Basilan.

"They ignored the men and returned to their hotel," Covarrubias said.

As this developed, two Arab journalists were invited by the military after they failed to present their accreditation documents that would show that they are allowed to cover the Balikatan war games.

Asseff Hamidin, reporter for the Abu Dhabi TV admitted that they overlooked some procedures, including getting an accreditation pass from the Malacañang press center.

"We went straight here. I'm a legitimate journalist like you," Hamidin told the INQUIRER.

He said he had been to Africa and other nations, covering significant events there for the government-owned Arab TV network.

But Covarrubias said the military did not only invite the Arab reporters, but also journalists and crew of twelve other foreign media outfits, who failed to present their papers.

"Because they don't follow the system that we adopt," Covarrubias said.

The INQUIRER found that nearly all the questioned journalists have tourist visas.

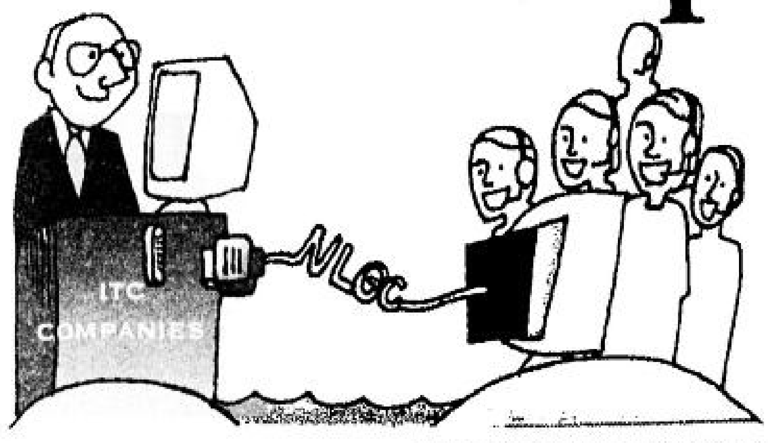
"They should have applied for journalist visas and they are supposed to indicate what equipment they are bringing for custom's clearance and . . . of course, for coverage purposes," Saul Pa-a, media coordinator of the Office of the Press Secretary, said.

Once the reporters reach Manila, their respective offices should also coordinate or notify the OPS of their itinerary for the issuance of the International Press Card (IPC). ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel ◎ Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Gov't body shifts to manpower pooling

By Gia Damaso Dumo
San Fernando City



IF you can't bring in the foreign investors, then send your manpower to them.

With much desired foreign investments becoming more and more obscure in the regional development map due to the worldwide recession and terrorist threats, the North Luzon Growth Commission (NLGC), the government's coordinating body for the region's development, is taking on that new tack.

After eight years of promoting Northern Luzon's potential agricultural and industrial ecozones, with few tangible gains to show, the NLGC has shifted to linking information and communication technology (ICT) companies with North Luzon's manpower pool and help the latter break into the global market.

Early this year, 10 women, some recently graduated from top colleges in Baguio, Dagupan and San Fernando cities, became the first batch of customer service trainees linked by the NLGC to American call center company Cyber City Teleservices Ltd. at the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga.

This was followed by the recruitment of hundreds of other applicants from the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and Cordillera regions for screening and eventual training.

Many of them are now regular employees of Cyber City which along with America Online (AOL) pioneered the booming industry of e-commerce service providers at the Clark ecozone.

"We have to focus on developing our human resources, especially in the field of IT, so Northern Luzon would be in the radar's scope of the employers. We are not sitting out the bad times," Willy Tanagon, head of the NLGC's IT sector, said.

Hard-nosed response

The NLGC's shift in focus was a hard-nosed response to the increasing unemployment rate in the three regions, at 7 percent in 2000, vis-a-vis the overwhelming demand for skilled and educated labor worldwide through IT-assisted services or e-service.

"The global demand for 'exportable' white-collar services—human resource, customer interaction, accounting, data management, education and others—will reach $180 billion by year 2010, up from only $10 billion in 1998," Tanagon said, quoting the findings of the consulting firm McKinsey and Co.

"Our efforts are barely making a dent in that market," he added.

Toward this end, the commission's other collaborative efforts had been with the National Computer Center (NCC), National American University (NAU) in South Dakota (USA), Fujitsu Philippines Inc. and Sun Microsystems Philippines Inc. for various training packages for teachers and students in Northern Luzon.

With the NCC, the result was a memorandum of agreement with seven state universities and colleges in Northern Luzon, which, in 2000, started benefiting from IT courseware and technical support provided by the NCC.

From the NAU, it was an accreditation of partner institutions, such as Computronix College in Dagupan, to offer structured online courses that would enable students to earn NAU certificates, diplomas and degrees.

NLGC also continues to pool applicants to the three-month information technology training program that is periodically being offered by Fujitsu Philippines to fulltime IT teachers from Northern Luzon, Tanagon said.

Sun Microsystems, which sells the Internet programming language Java, has also tied in with the NLGC and the Department of Science and Technology in bringing Java training to schools at a much lower cost than if official course materials were used.

Alternative site

"Our goal is to entice software companies to consider North Luzon as an alternative (site) for outsourcing applications development work," Leo Querubin, Sun Microsystems strategic business development manager, said.

He described outsourcing as "subcontracting a function that is not core to the company to a third party to lower the overhead cost."

Both Tanagon and Querubin noted the huge gap that exists between the current skills of IT graduates and the requirements of the industry. This, in spite of the fact that an estimated 3,000 students graduate from the three regions' various schools with IT courses each year, they said.

"It is a gap that needs massive intervention from all sectors because ITC is a manpower-driven industry; infrastructure is not all that counts," Tanagon said.

Already, the Philippines is closely competing with India, as well as with its neighboring Asian countries as a preferred site for IT outsourcing.

Data from the Far Eastern Economic Review showed that in 1999, 600 Filipino workers at America Online in Clark were answering customer service e-mails; more than 500 Filipinos were developing and customizing software for Andersen Consulting in Manila; and Filipino accountants of Caltex in Manila were processing transactions for Southeast Asia and Hong Kong.

At Cyber City, as many as 800 customer service representatives (CSRs) man the call centers at any given 24-hour period.

With the help of NLGC, the company is slowly but surely filling up 250 more positions with college graduates from the three other regions of Northern Luzon as well as with those from Manila and Central Luzon, according to George Sorio, Cyber City's executive vice president and the only Filipino-American partner.

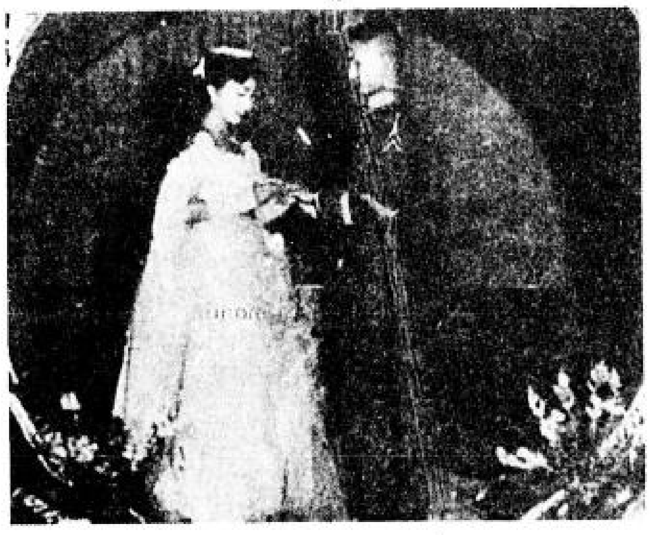
Sorio added that, in the next three years, Cyber City would need 4,500 more CSRs to fill its additional 12 buildings.

He attributed the success of their Philippine operation to the availability and abundance of "highly educated, professional, easily trainable and English speaking" Filipino workers who came mostly from Central and Northern Luzon.

"This is the idea behind integrating economies, which is in the mandate of the NLGC. But ultimately, our goal is to attract ICT companies to locate in North Luzon knowing that our manpower resources are ready for them," Tanagon said.

Meet the 'balongs' of the PMA

By Gobleth Moulic
Fort del Pilar, Baguio City



NORMA Musni and then Cadet Fileteo Arevalo of PMA Class 1956. They later got married.

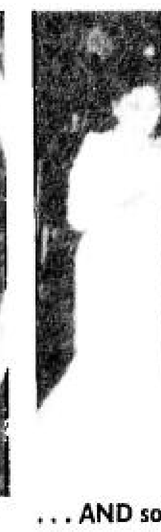
NORMA slips graduation ring of son Cadet Alexander Arevalo of PMA Class 1982 . . .

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE AREVALO FAMILY

. . . AND son Cadet Robert Arevalo of Class 1985 . . .

. . . AND son Cadet Filoteo Arevalo Jr. of Class 1984 . . .

. . . AND son Cadet Benedict Arevalo of Class 1990 . . .



. . . AND son Cadet Armand Arevalo of Class 1991.

HAVE you heard of the *balongs* (kids or little sons) of the Philippine Military Academy? Ask any PMA alumnus and he will certainly refer you to one of Baguio City's most prominent clans, the Arevalos, who holds the distinction of producing five sons in Asia's premier military training school.

If former PMA chief of staff, retired Col. Filoteo Arevalo Sr. (Class 1956), would have his way, he wanted all his 11 children—six boys and five girls—to undergo the rigid four-year training at the PMA and later serve the country.

But when his eldest daughter was born in 1956 and was subsequently followed by four girls (1960, 1966, 1969 and 1974), he almost gave up his dream of having a family of soldiers.

During those years, females were not allowed to enter the male-dominated military institution until the government lifted the ban in 1994.

When Arevalo's wife Norma, former manager of Musar Music Corp., gave birth to six boys, Filoteo, or Pilo as he was fondly called, wasted no time encouraging (or "brainwashing," as Norma gamely described it) his sons to follow in his footsteps.

Indeed, his efforts paid off.

Of the six sons, five are now successful officers in their respective fields and, at the same time, have clinched the title as among the famed sibling graduates of the long gray line, according to the PMA's Academy Scribe.

How it started

The pet name *balong* started with the eldest son, Maj. Alexander Arevalo, who graduated cum laude in 1982. A recipient of gold cross medal and bronze medal as battalion deputy and executive officer, Filoteo's second child now works as deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Customs.

In 1984, Filoteo Arevalo Jr. followed suit and soared high as an international pilot of Philippine Airlines after serving as test pilot of the Philippine Air Force.

The fifth child is the movie actor's namesake, Robert Arevalo, who graduated cum laude in 1985. He is now a major at Fort Bonifacio, the Philippine Army headquarters.

Unlike his *manongs* who were outstanding students at the PMA, Benedict, the eighth child, graduated as an average cadet in 1990 but later excelled as a soldier. Capt. Benedict Arevalo is one of the most bemedalled lieutenants in the Army. He was a recipient of the Cavalier Award given by the PMA Alumni Association in 1992 for his achievements in Army operations.

The youngest *balong* and ninth child is Capt. Armand Arevalo of Class 1991. Cited as best officer and best company commander of the First Scout Ranger Regiment in 1994 and 1995, respectively, Armand had just finished an infantry advanced course at Fort Benning in Georgia.

The sixth son, Ronald Arevalo, took a different route and is now a resident medical doctor in a New York hospital.

Behind the *balongs'* success, they say, is a woman who has made it to the PMA history. Records showed that Norma is the only woman who slipped the graduation rings of six PMAers, including her husband.

The downside of being an Arevalo, however, is that most people think that if your surname is Arevalo, you're considered to be a true-blue *balong*.

For instance, PMA spokesperson Capt. Edgard Arevalo, a Batangueño and member of Class 1990, is always mistaken for a son of Filoteo Arevalo Sr. Edgard is quick to say, however, that he is not related to the famous *balongs*. The only common denominator is he happens to be Benedict's *mistah*.

Take heart, Edgard, because Norma says she is "adopting" you as her son.

"People keep on asking me if the PMA spokesperson now is my son. When they tell me that (Captain Edgard) is bright, I say, 'Yeah he is my son,'" she said with a smile.

PLANET ILOCOS

PLANET Ilocos: A lot of bull per cup for P180. CRISTINA ARZADON

In Ilocos region, it's Soup No. 10

By Frank Cimatu
Laoag City

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

FARTHER north in Laoag City is a deceptively yuppie restaurant called Planet Ilocos, which is known among traveling gourmands for its Soup No. 10.

The restaurant also serves Soup No. 5, which every Filipino knows as soup made of bull testicles.

But is Soup No. 10 equivalent to two servings of Soup No. 5?

Soup No. 10 is made of carabao testicles which, according to a waitress, is a culinary original of the owner of Planet Ilocos. The Chinoys in Laoag City reportedly consume a cup (worth P180 when we last went there, while Soup No. 5 was sold at P150) because it is an aphrodisiac.

Soup No. 10 is a little pungent, very spicy and heady, a little more sour than Soup No. 5.

We asked the waitress if she had tried it. "*Saan pay, ser. Awammet asawak* (No, Sir. I have no husband)," she said.

The Ilocanos are fond of aphrodisiacs, which make us wonder why their fertility rate is among the lowest in the country.

Manang Claring, the cook at Villa Angela in Vigan City, said a rare aphrodisiac is the *abohos* or ant eggs or larvae, which are only available during summer. The larvae of the weaver ant can be found clamped on mango branches. The branches are shaken by experienced catchers and caught with flat nets.

Do not expect to buy *abohos* in the market. You have to order these from the catchers or at A&A Restaurant in Bangued, Abra. The larvae are soft, creamy and a bit sour. They are usually cooked *adobo* style or coated with eggs.

Ant larvae are high in calcium, the same way as your good-old *balut* (boiled duck eggs).

River eel

Another famous aphrodisiac in the Cordillera is the *dalit* (river eel).

I remember joining a band of eel hunters from Barlig, Mt. Province, in 1992. Early morning, they would go upriver and after spotting a large eel, they would put a *runo* marker on where it dwelled. Three hours later, they would retrace their path and collect the eel.

Collecting eels is not as easy as pulling them out because that is akin to arm-wrestling with Sly Stallone.

The hunters would bring out their long pipe and shoot naphthalene at the eels, stunning them. Then they can pull out the *dalit*.

The eels, especially those as big as Stallone's arms, are sold for P200 a kilo. It is so expensive, Bontoc people said, that only "contractors" can afford them.

But most of the eels sold in Mt. Province do not have tails. These are brought to Nueva Vizcaya where they are bought for a higher price by Chinoy businessmen.

Down in Pangasinan, the oyster, although very readily available, is the most coveted aphrodisiac. Eat it raw at Dawel Restaurant or cooked with lots of *siling Tagalog* at Matutina's, both in Dagupan City.

Oyster is Casanova's favorite. It has lots of zinc and it has been said that men with low zinc level have a lower sperm count. This may explain why Pangasinan has the highest fertility rate in the Ilocos region.

Diane Ackerman, in her book, "A Natural History of Love," mentioned about the liquamen, a popular aphrodisiac among the ancient Romans.

"A more popular Roman aphrodisiac was a sauce made from rotting fish entrails, and prettied up under the name liquamen," she said.

Smells like *bagoong* (fish paste) to me.

Soup Nos. 5 and 10 are coveted because they got the balls, so to speak. The eel because, well, (as singer-rapper Blakdyak would say) "they look like yours, *papa!*"

And so would snake meat. If you want the most poisonous snake possible, try cobra and you can eat cobra meat in an eatery in Tarlac City.

If you are in Baguio City, the Honeymoon Capital of the Philippines, don't go for the roses and peanut brittle. Go for the asparagus and artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*).

"Asparagus," according to Ackerman, "is a rich source of potassium, phosphorous and calcium—all of which are essential for energy—and it stimulates the urinary tract and kidneys, which may be why 17th-century herbalist Nicholas Culpepper advised that asparagus 'stirreth up bodily lust in man and woman.'"

Artichoke heats the body and spirit, Ackerman said, quoting the Parisian vendors.

But back to Soup No. 5.

Filipino original

Although Americans have similar soup that they call the "Rocky Mountain Stew," culinary theorists believe that Soup No. 5 is a Filipino original. Why No. 5 is part of urban legend, but who started it is a bigger debate.

Some say it started in the *panciterias* of Binondo ("Manila Panciterias" by Ivan Man Dy), specifically in Panciteria Smart, a restaurant frequented by the late Sen. Raul Manglapus, former mayor Alfredo Lim and former Sen. Ernesto Maceda.

Soup No. 5 is so popular that it is now being sold all over the world. One Filipino couple even tasted it near a bullfighting arena in Spain, purportedly from the vanquished bulls.

After eating the same thing day after day, the couple wondered why one day the balls shrunk greatly. After consuming the soup, they asked the waiter why?

"The bull won this time," he said.

Balikatan foes deliver note to US Embassy

From page A1

their path blocked by anti-riot policemen.

"We presented our declaration of opposition to the war games. We feel that the Abu Sayyaf is a local problem that should not be 'internationalized.' We ourselves can solve this," Tañada said.

He was accompanied by "running priest" Robert Reyes and University of the Philippines professor Walden Bello when he was allowed to get into the embassy.

But only an embassy security officer, Ronnie Catipon, received Peace Camp's manifesto just behind the embassy gate. Tañada and his companions were shown out after about five minutes.

The protesters arrived at about 1:15 p.m. after a gathering of alliance members at the Ellinwood Church in Malate, Manila.

The gathering issued a "declaration of unity" against the war games. Besides Tañada and Fr. Reyes, the declaration's signatories include former Senate President Jovito Salonga, Zenaida Quezon Avanceña, and UP President Francisco Nemenzo.

Artists like Gary Granada, Noel Cabangon and Bayang Barrios also signed the declaration. Director Bhen Cervantes was at the embassy rally.

The group said they were "appalled by the President's lack of transparency and casual disregard for the nation's sovereignty in favor of expediency in resolving the Abu Sayyaf and other peace and order problems."

Tañada said the Americans "were inviting trouble" because it was not only the Abu Sayyaf and other Moro secessionist groups were armed in Sulu and Basilan. The civilians themselves also bear arms.

"Unless we take care of the social needs, the disparity and inequality in less developed countries, extremism would never be eradicated," Tañada said.

Ironically, most, if not all, of the members of Peace Camp were at Edsa II, which propelled Ms Macapagal to power.

Church groups

Many Catholic organizations also signed the declaration despite the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines official support for the military exercises.

READY to fire: A Filipino Marine polishes the high-powered firearms of his comrades who are to be deployed in Luuk, Sulu. VAL HANDUMON

These include the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP)-Women's Desk, the Catholic Relief Services, Gomburza, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, the AMRSP's Justice and Peace Integrity of Creation Commission, and the Prelature of Isabela.

Other signatories were party-list group Akbayan, Sanlakas, Kilusan Para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD), the Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC), the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), and the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement.

Before marching to the embassy, the protesters launched the "Gathering for Peace" at Ellinwood Church.

It was graced by the 78-year-old widow of the staunch anti-US bases activist and former Sen. Jose Diokno, Nena. She was accompanied by daughters Ma. Theresa "Maitet" Diokno-Pascual and Ma. Socorro "Cookie" Diokno, co-convenors of the Gathering for Peace.

"We are gathered here today to pay tribute to our heroes and martyrs who shed blood so that we can obtain our freedom and independence from foreign control. We emulate them so they will not be forgotten but our President is telling us that by emulating them, we have become less a Filipino," Tañada said.

About 200 leaders of multi-sectoral groups such as farmers, peasants, women, youth, lumad and church-based organizations wore a sticker on their chest that says, "*Ako ay Filipino.*"

War freak

They called President Macapagal-Arroyo "anti-Filipino, immoral, war freak, greedy for money and an ABUsh (Abu Sayyaf and George Bush) lover, who has low IQ."

"What is the short-term interest of the administration which it is exchanging with the long-term interest of the Americans?" Tañada asked.

Bello, president of Akbayan, offered an answer.

"It's greed for money. It is the calculation of the Macapagal administration that bringing in billions of dollars can overcome our economic problem. To get more US aid, the quid pro quo is to allow the US to intervene in our domestic affairs for their major permanent presence here," Bello said.

By allowing US troops to be deployed here, Ms Macapagal negated the gains of militant activists like Diokno and former Sen. Lorenzo Tañada, according to Roland Simbulan, chair of the Nuclear-Free Philippines.

Michelle Licudine, representing the youth from Sanlakas, denounced Ms Macapagal for destroying the future of the children.

Wilson Fortaleza, Sanlakas chair said: "We will not be surprised if Gloria will call this Gathering for Peace a coalition of evils. Having a sharp tongue but with a loose brain, Gloria might even announce that an 'axis of evil' has already been formed by Fr. Robert Reyes, Bobby Tañada and Abu Sabaya."

One of the sectoral leaders said he was glad to see some activists and members of the First Quarter Storm attending the launching.

"But I don't see someone, but I hope (presidential spokesperson) Bobi Tiglao (a former activist) comes to his senses," he said, prompting the audience to break into applause and shouting.

In Dumaguete City, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), one of the biggest Protestant groups in the country, has stood pat on its position to oppose the war exercises.

Official UCCP stand

Bishop Elmer Bolocon, UCCP general secretary, told the INQUIRER over the phone on Monday that the statement that the eight-member Council of Bishops issued in Baguio City on Jan. 30 was the official UCCP statement.

He reiterated UCCP's stand after the Silliman University Church Council in Dumaguete called on the Council of Bishops to consult their member-churches before binding the organization to its position on the Balikatan 02-1.

In a resolution passed during a meeting on Sunday, the SU Church Council disowned the position of the UCCP on the Balikatan. The UCCP Church is a member of the UCCP.

"(The bishops) should not assume to speak for us without consulting us. I think it was improper," said retired Appellate Court Justice Venancio Aldecoa, chair of the SU Church Council.

Jose Riodil Montebon, chair of the SU Church Council committee on mission and outreach, said the resolution of the SU Church Council did not actually bind its members to a specific position.

"We're just saying (to the bishops) that they cannot do that without asking us," he said.

There were no dissenting views to the resolution among all the Council members present, including University President Agustin Pulido and former Environment Secretary Angel Alcala.

"We respect the autonomy of local churches. A local church may not agree with it and they have the option to disagree," Bolocon said. ***With a report from Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Oplan American adobo: Pinoys tell 'em how

From page A1

GRILLED snake, anyone? For this American soldier, it doesn't seem exactly like love at first bite. JOAN BONDOC

Members of the media who observed part of yesterday's training saw how Colyer's men were taught by Filipino soldiers how to lay a trap for snakes and *bayawak* (monitor lizard) and how to kill them for food.

A Filipino Scout Ranger bludgeoned a snake using the wooden end of a bolo and then proceeded to skin it.

Another Filipino soldier lectured to the Americans: "The head should not be chopped off before the skin is peeled because then it would be hard to skin."

Suddenly, the snake writhed.

"It's still alive!" some newsmen shouted.

The soldier continued skinning the snake and, that done, proceeded to chop off the head.

The Filipinos also showed how the same thing could be done to monitor lizards. Although in the case of the latter, the head can be chopped off before it is skinned.

Next, the Americans were taught how to make a fire using bamboo.

And then, the snake and the monitor lizard were skewered on bamboo sticks and then roasted over the fire.

"Monitor lizards make good *adobo*," commented a Filipino soldier who acted as trainer.

But since they were teaching the Americans jungle survival (and there are no condiments like vinegar and soy sauce in the jungle), they just rubbed salt on the reptiles and roasted them.

After the Filipinos' lecture and demonstration, it was the Americans' turn to catch, kill, skin and cook the reptiles.

"I learned a lot of good things about survival training, about good things to eat. That's the main thing to do if you get stuck out there," Colyer said.

He said he also learned how to look for bats in bamboo plants and how to cook them.

The 12 members of the US 1st Special Forces Group were part of a contingent participating in Balance Piston, which was described by the Philippine Army as the "lesser known" military exercise. Aside from Camp Tecson, the exercise was also being held in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

Balance Piston is an army-to-army exercise usually held in the country four times a year. It intends to test the "interoperatibility" of Filipino and American troops to establish a firm basis for possible joint military exercises in the future.

Col. Danilo Lim, deputy chief of the First Scout Ranger Regiment, said teaching the Americans other aspects of war was good training for Filipino soldiers.

He corrected the common impression that the exercises were one-sided.

"It actually works both ways. We learn from them and they also learn from us," Lim said.

He added that the Americans had taught his men techniques in "combat medicine," equipment handling and small unit tactics.

For the Americans, it was also a learning experience.

Colyer said they were "getting a lot of training in different environments."

They were learning other ways of lighting a fire, identifying sources of food in the jungle, as well as getting oriented with different terrain.

"You obviously have a different training environment from what we have in the US. It gives our troops a good chance to experience different training," Colyer added.

Air Force planes pound Abu hideouts

From page A1

day when their jeep struck a land mine. Bandits, hiding in bushes, opened fire on the patrol then withdrew before Army reinforcements arrived.

Southcom officials said two Marine battalions, or about 1,000 soldiers, were dispatched to Jolo this week as the fighting escalated.

More than 300 Marines were pulled out from Lanao del Sur for deployment in Luuk town, another remote town on Jolo where the Abu Sayyaf operates.

The Marines, aboard a tank carrier, on Tuesday passed by the Southcom headquarters in Zamboanga City, where they displayed their weapons and a Catholic priest prayed for them.

"I expect a higher intensity as far as combat operation (in Jolo) is concerned," said Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Southcom chief.

Citing intelligence reports, Cimatu said only about 200 Abu Sayyaf gunmen remained on the island.

A massive military operation decimated the Abu Sayyaf on Jolo, but its dwindling force was boosted by a reported alliance with many armed followers of Nur Misuari.

Misuari, ousted chair of the Moro National Liberation Front and former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, is in jail pending his trial on rebellion charges.

Military officials said the so-called "Misuari Renegade Group," which launched a short-lived rebellion in Jolo in November, provided logistics support to the Abu Sayyaf in its kidnapping activities.

Fighting also erupted Tuesday on a tiny island northeast of Basilan between Army soldiers and about 30 of Misuari's followers. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The clashes in Western Mindanao broke out days before US Special Forces are to join Filipino soldiers in a joint military training exercise in Basilan, where Abu Sayyaf bandits are holding hostage a US missionary couple and a Filipino nurse.

In Zamboanga City, a Russian-made cargo aircraft lent a hand in the US military buildup after fire stranded a US plane.

The huge Antonov cargo plane, contracted by the US military, landed in Zamboanga City late Monday, carrying equipment for US troops participating in the war games.

It took the place of a US Air Force C-17 cargo plane that remained stranded after one of its engines caught fire on Saturday.

Witnesses said the Antonov unloaded at least 11 motor vehicles, mostly pick-up trucks, as well as equipment that looked like power generators.

A security official said the Russian plane picked up cargo from the Kadena Air Base in Japan.

At the Mactan Air Base in Cebu, the military heightened security around the refueling and servicing facility for US aircraft after a homemade firebomb was discovered outside its gate.

The molotov cocktail was safely detonated, said Capt. Enrico Canaya, head of security at the base.

He could not say whether the bombing attempt specifically targeted US forces inside the base until after an investigation.

"The alert, the security systems have been increased so that, in case there are similar incidents, we can react earlier," Canaya said.

Last month, a US plane was hit by small-arms fire while flying over Luzon. The attack was blamed on communist rebels opposed to the US presence. ***With reports from AP and AFP***

Showdown looms today on Ani's case

From page A1

words of Minority Leader Rep. Carlos Padilla, "not mandatory but directory."

But during yesterday's plenary session, Assistant Majority Leader Francisco Escudero made it clear that the 10th day would be the last day for the House to act on the first complaint.

Otherwise, House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said, the 10 session days for disposing of the impeachment complaint would stretch to two months.

"It will derail the legislative mill," Gonzales said. "This won't be the House of Representatives but the House of Impeachment."

The showdown became inevitable after yesterday's session adjourned after only one hour. Three congressmen—Reps. Mauricio Tomogan, Benigno Aquino III and Edelmiro Amante—had already interpellated justice committee chair Rep. Marcelino Libanan, who was defending the committee report, when Rep. Clavel Martinez questioned the lack of quorum.

Moreno's appeal

At a news briefing before yesterday's session, Rep. Oscar Moreno appealed to the House leadership to allow members the opportunity to ask all the questions they needed to ask about the committee report.

"I think (the) deliberations on the (report) would spill over (to) next week," Moreno said. "It's not as if the world will stop (today)."

Moreno recalled that two session days were "lost" in the last two weeks when the House did not take up the first complaint because the last two Mondays had been reserved for privilege speeches.

"I hope they (the leadership) would not force the (vote) because this is supposed to be a conscience vote," he said, in reference to Speaker Jose de Venecia's call for the House to vote on the first complaint according to their conscience.

"We should not be narrow or selective in interpreting the rules especially since there is a big number of members wanting to interpellate the House justice committee report on the first impeachment complaint," Padilla said.

By insisting that the House not vote today on the first complaint, Moreno's group would gain more time to gather the 16 other signatures they need for the second impeachment complaint against Desierto to be elevated to the Senate.

If the House goes ahead with the vote on the first, it will effectively kill the second.

As of presstime last night, Moreno refused to say how many congressmen had already endorsed the second complaint, only saying that his group was "close to the magic number of 73."

"I will be showing our cards and jeopardizing our case (if I gave the number)," he told the INQUIRER last night.

Yesterday, three more congressmen—Assistant Majority Leader Del de Guzman, Leyte Rep. Ted Failon and Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales—came out to say they were among those who endorsed the second impeachment complaint against Desierto.

Plunder Watch, the independent watchdog monitoring the Estrada trials, yesterday expressed support for the impeachment complaints against Desierto.

"We have repeatedly warned Mr. Desierto not to cross paths with a public long fed up with corruption. But he did not heed our warnings. He has botched graft and corruption cases, big and small. We are convinced that this is the same direction the Estrada plunder trial is going. We don't want that to happen," said Dr. Carolina Pagaduan Araullo, convenor of Plunder Watch. ***With a report from Gerald Lacuarta***

Town ravaged by Abus hail coming of Americans

LAMITAN, Basilan—A 6-year-old boy waits by the door of his hovel each day for his mother, who has been held hostage by Abu Sayyaf bandits for more than eight months.

Down the block, a woman describes how her daughter was forced in captivity to marry a leader of the bandit group. The doors of abandoned wooden huts in a nearby farm village are adorned with black cloth in memory of 10 coconut farmers beheaded during an Abu Sayyaf rampage in August.

A half-day's drive through this dusty, humid town is like a macabre tour of the Abu Sayyaf's atrocities, which fuel support for America's controversial involvement in the Philippine war against the militant Islamic group.

Here, doubts about the US-led global counter-terrorism campaign are lost in chilling accounts of kidnappings, killings and violence.

Fr. Cirilo Nacorda was abducted once by the Abu Sayyaf. Now he carries a pistol.

"So many things have happened here and there are many victims," he said. "It could be embarrassing for our military because we also have a sense of pride, but the Americans could help us finally get rid of our problems."

Lamitan, an agricultural town home to more than 50,000 people, is one of two predominantly Roman Catholic areas on Basilan Island, making it an attractive target for the Abu Sayyaf.

The bandits claim to be fighting to create an Islamic state in this mostly Catholic country, but the government calls them mere bandits. US and Philippine officials have linked the group to the al-Qaida terror network.

Lamitan's St. Peter's Church has been painted over and its steeple and cross bolstered with new wood to hide the scars of two days of military air and artillery attacks set off when the bandits, dragging a score of hostages captured from a Palawan resort several days earlier, occupied it and a nearby hospital in June.

The battles left a few people dead and destroyed several houses. The searing images of war, captured by a throng of television crews and photographers, hammered home the reality of terrorism to many Filipinos.

It also left a puzzle—how a few dozen bandits with more than 20 hostages were able to sneak out a back door and vanish into nearby jungle despite being surrounded.

Claims by a priest that rebels bribed military commanders to allow them flee triggered congressional investigations but no definitive answers.

The bandits took 17 Filipinos and three Americans from the resort at gunpoint along with several hospital staffers. The Americans were missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham and Guillermo Sobero.

Tarsila Malonzo said her daughter, 23-year-old abducted nurse Reina, was forced to marry Abu Sayyaf chief Khadafy Janjalani in July. Reina was found in early November by an uncle while wandering outside a mall in Zamboanga City, near Basilan.

"I'm in favor of the Americans coming here so they can help look for the Burnhams and other hostages. These kidnappings should stop," said Tarsila, sitting on a wooden bench outside her Lamitan home.

She scoffed at those opposing US help: "They've never known how it is to be a victim."

The United States has been providing weapons and training to some of the 8,000 Filipino troops battling the Abu Sayyaf, now said to number just 50 to 70 in Basilan. More than 600 American soldiers also are joining Filipino troops in a six-month counter-terrorism exercise in Zamboanga and Basilan.

About 160 US Special Forces will be allowed to enter war zones to observe Filipino troops. Armed only for self-defense, they are prohibited from engaging in combat.

Opponents claim the maneuvers could violate a constitutional restriction on the presence of foreign combat troops.

Some residents in Mindanao also say they fear the American involvement could escalate conflict and tension and create more misery in the appallingly poor region.

Jay Anthony Yap, a college dropout living near Tarsila's house, says that despite those concerns, the ill-equipped Philippine military needs help to end the Abu Sayyaf scourge. Yap's mother, Ediborah, a 48-year-old nurse taken from the hospital, is still in Abu Sayyaf custody.

Ediborah was the only source of income for her family. Her husband, despondent over his joblessness, left long before she was abducted.

"Now there is a real chance for them to get my mother," Yap said, welcoming the US assistance.

Gliceria Ramirez has perhaps the most bitter tale.

Abu Sayyaf bandits stormed her impoverished farming village, Balobo, on the night of Aug. 2, herding away 26 people at gunpoint, including her, her children and a grandson. *AP*

2 issues delay TOR signing

From page A1

The Cabinet source noted that US state department lawyers, who flew into the country, had insisted on inserting a provision in the draft TOR, which explicitly states that the TOR does not constitute a treaty "although obviously the TOR is not a treaty."

With such provision, it can be inferred that Washington considers itself less obligated to the TOR than if it were a treaty.

The source, however, stressed that the US military's mission order "is clear that their mission is for training and not combat."

Some 660 American soldiers are coming over, 160 of whom are Green Berets who will join frontline Filipino troops hunting down Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan.

The Department of Foreign Affairs had insisted that the TOR would read explicitly that American troops were under the 'authority' of Filipino commanders.

A draft TOR released last week by Malacañang featured a somewhat watered down provision which stated that "nothing shall infringe on the authority of the AFP unit commander."

Legal question

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao had earlier explained that the United States had raised legal questions over the matter of "authority" because American soldiers were sworn to be under the authority only of American commanders.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez cited a possible compromise on who shall have command over whom amid US objections to placing American soldiers under the authority of Filipino officers.

"What appears to be up for discussion is that 'the Filipinos will be under Filipino commanders and the Americans are under American commanders,'" Perez said in an interview in Malacañang.

"But both of them will be under the joint co-training directors and the co-training directors are under the Chief of Staff (of the Armed Forces of the Philippines)," he said.

Marine Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio and US Air Force Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster have been designated as co-directors of Balikatan 02-1.

Guingona wants Powell

The Cabinet source said Guingona, who is also the foreign secretary, wanted Powell to sign the TOR on behalf of the United States.

"Secretary Guingona is pushing for Powell to sign but Powell appears to be very busy with other US concerns," the source said.

The Cabinet source said Kelly was not likely to come over to Manila, and the documents might just be sent to Washington for his signature.

Still, Guingona said he was "satisfied" with the outcome of the teleconference with Kelly. The teleconference took place at the residence of Guingona at around 8:30 a.m. It was Kelly who called, according to DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros.

EDWIN BACASMAS

WHILE the President is preoccupied with her notes before the start of the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Vice President Guingona tries to raise a point.

Guingona was told that Kelly was calling on behalf of Powell who was unavailable to engage in a teleconference with him. Lecaros said the phone conversation between Guingona and Kelly lasted about 10 minutes.

Interviewed later in Malacañang, Guingona said he wanted to "clarify" some details with the Cabinet oversight committee on internal security.

The committee convened at 4 p.m. yesterday without Guingona, who was supposed to preside over the meeting.

"Everything seems to be substantially OK. There is only (the matter of) a protocol exchange, you know, the procedures. So I hope everything is clarified this afternoon," Guingona said as emerged from the weekly Cabinet meeting. He did not elaborate.

Guingona, however, gave mixed signals at the Cabinet meeting.

Clenched fist

Shortly after the meeting began at 10 a.m. and in full view of TV cameramen and photographers, Guingona raised a clenched fist.

He was seated to the President's right. But she did not see the gesture since she was reading her notes. "No, (it) just (means) fight for principle, fight for Filipinos," he said when asked later by reporters.

Signing today

The President's spokesperson said the signing would "most probably" push through today.

"According to the Vice President, there are no hitches in the TOR, just some very, very minor things, (some) words would be changed," Tiglao said.

But Guingona said he would need the minutes of his conversation with Kelly before the TOR could be signed.

He said the minutes would also serve as the basis for the signing of the TOR.

Tiglao said that they were still working out the signatory for the United States. If it's Kelley, it must be determined whether he needs to travel to Manila to sign the document, he said.

Tiglao said Kelley would again confer with his superiors "so that it's clear that (the TOR) carries the full weight of the Philippine and US governments."

In the House of Representatives, four legislators urged Malacañang to make public the TOR before signing it so that it could be reviewed by Congress.

Lakas Representatives Del de Guzman and Ma. Theresa Defensor and partylist Representatives Loretta Ann Rosales and Joel Villanueva issued a statement urging the Palace to be transparent about the conduct of the joint military exercise and the rules that would govern it.

"While we may have different views on this matter, we are united in saying that in the spirit of transparency and before signing the TOR, the government owes it to our people to show, in black and white, what this is all about," De Guzman said. ***With a report from Juliet L. Javellana***

WALA BANG KARAPATANG MAGHAPUNAN AT ALMUSAL ANG MGA BATA DITO?

Sila ang mga batang taga-Parola, Baseco, NGC, East Triangle, at UP na araw-araw ay mahapdi ang tiyan. May mga Bigasan sanang itatayo sa kanilang lugar para sila'y makakain ng regular. Kaya lang, nakabinbin pa ang kinita sa PEACe Bonds para sa mga Bigasan. Hanggang kailan kaya sila pagtitiisin ng mga nag-iimbestiga?

Maraming mahihirap na komunidad ang naghihintay sa biyayang idudulot ng PEACe Bonds -- isang malinis na transaksyong pinansyal para sa mga kapus-palad nating kababayan. Ipagkakait pa ba natin sa kanila ang perang ito?

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ASIAD PREPARATION

RP boxers competing in Germany, Czech Republic

By June Navarro

THE AMATEUR Boxing Association of the Philippines will send a 10-man boxing team in two prestigious European tournaments in preparation for this year's Asian Games in Busan, South Korea.

Abap president Manny Lopez said participation in the Grand Prix International Boxing Championships in Usti Nad Labem, Czech Republic and the Chemistry Cup in Halle, Germany is an essential part of the association's long-range program for the boxers to bring back the glory in the Asiad.

He said the Grand Prix, set on Feb. 28 to March 4, and the Chemistry Cup, slated on March 5-10, are the venues where the best pugilists in Europe compete.

He added both tournaments would also be participated in by top-rate amateur boxers from Cuba, United States and Asian powerhouse Thailand and South Korea.

"These tournaments are part of a long-term training program designed to measure the competitiveness of our boxers against our Asian neighbors," said Lopez.

Romeo Brin, the country's top contender in the light welterweight division, has been the only one formally named to the squad as 10 other members of the national training pool contest the remaining slots for the other weight divisions.

The lightweight division is a toss-up between Anthony Igusquiza and Larry Semillano while Arlan Lerio, Violito Payla, Vincent Palicte and Rene Villaluz are vying for seats in the flyweight and bantamweight classes, respectively.

Harry Tanamor and Lhyven Salazar are bidding to earn a crack in the light flyweight division while the featherweight category is a race between Roel Laguna and Genebert Basadre.

Meanwhile, Philippine Sports Commission Chair Eric Buhain yesterday approved the Gratuity and Monthly Incentive Allowance Plan of 13 former national athletes.

Recipients of the incentive scheme are swimmers Dolores Agustin Gonzales, Rudy Agustin, Arnulfo Valles, Sukarno Maut, Betina Abdula Ampoc, Kemalpasa Umih and Amado Jimenez.

Softball's Carmelita Velasco, Mariquita Salazar Smith, Marietta Ballesteros, Josefina Cruz Stewart, Patricia Sta. Maria Nicdao and basketball's Andres Dela Cruz also belong to the list of gratuity beneficiaries.

Beach volley slated

NESTEA is gearing up for summer as it prepares for the annual Nestea Beach Volley University championships.

In the past five years, Nestea spiced up summer with the holding of beach volley competitions within the metropolis and various beaches in the country, contributing to the popularity of the sport and the increased interest generated from viewers and participants alike.

Now on its sixth year, the event is bigger than ever with the expected participation of 64 schools nationwide—or a total of 128 teams in the lineup. Men and women beach volley players from various colleges and universities will compete for over half a million in prizes. P100,000 is in store for each of the champion teams, which is more than three times bigger compared to that of last year's.

On top of this, Nestea will be giving P50,000 worth of sports equipment to the schools that the champion teams represent.

The 6th Nestea Beach Volley University Championships calendar kicks off with the elimination rounds for the Metro Manila teams on March 9 to 10 and April 6 to 7.

Spikers from Luzon face each other on April 13 and 14 while those from the Visayas and Mindanao areas get their chance on April 17 and 18.

Provincial teams will be flown to Manila courtesy of Nestea.

As in the past tournaments, Nestea will again bring the beach to the city as it holds elimination rounds at the La Salle Greenhills beach volleyball court.

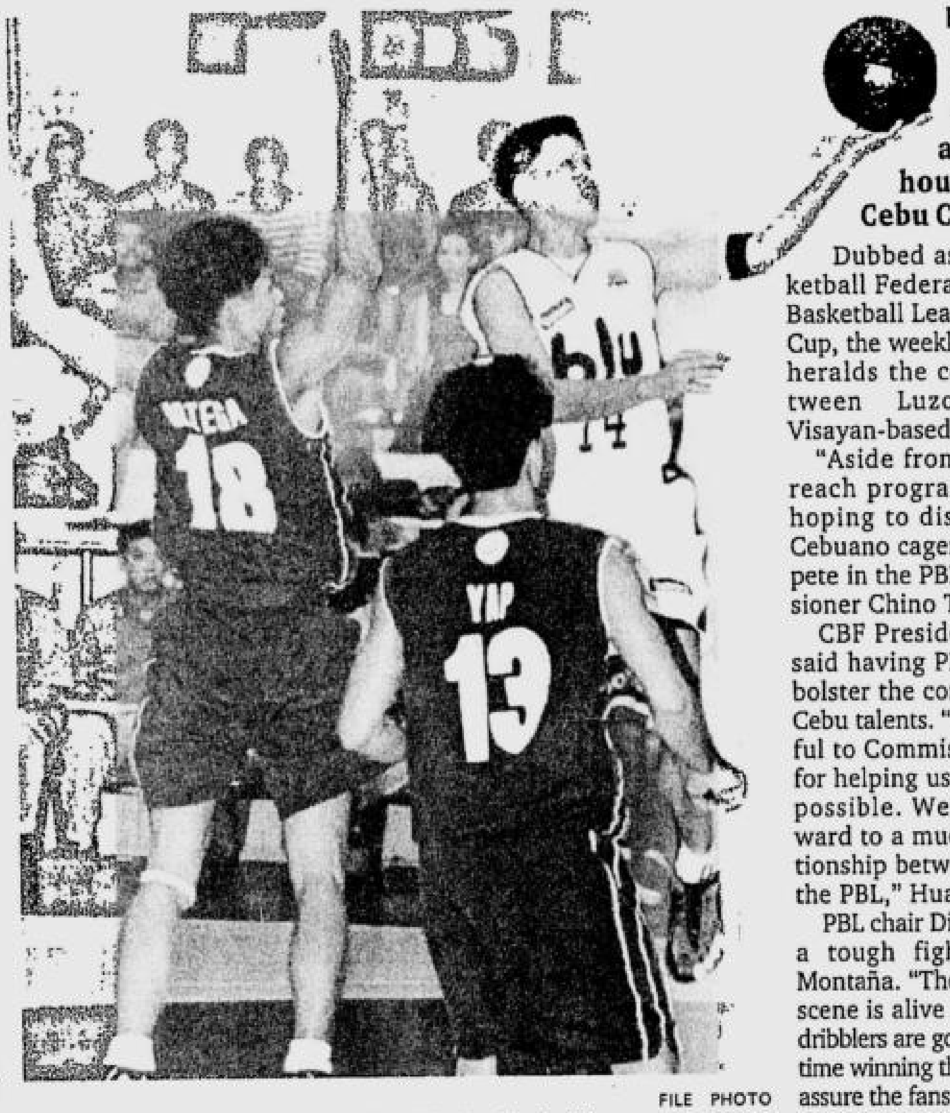
Winners in the elimination rounds will be flown to the island of Boracay for the national championships for the ultimate beach volley showdown.

Interested schools, call the secretariat at 722-7717.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1993, Pompeyo Vasquez shot a 75 to score a one-stroke victory over Louie Advincula in the Philippine Seniors Golf Championship at Fort Bonifacio. Also today in 1994, De La Salle beat Adamson, 94-87, to rule the national intercollegiate basketball championship at the University of Baguio.

PBL teams off to Cebu



FILE PHOTO

BLU'S Eric Dela Cuesta (with ball) will bring his thrilling ways to Cebu.

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE PBL brings its thrilling acts to the Queen City of the South when Blu Detergent Kings and Montaña Jewels hoop it up with powerhouse Visayan squads from Feb. 15 to 20 at the Cebu City Coliseum.

Dubbed as the Cebu Basketball Federation-Philippine Basketball League Partnership Cup, the weeklong tournament heralds the cooperation between Luzon-based and Visayan-based cage bodies.

"Aside from being an outreach program, we are also hoping to discover talented Cebuano cagers who can compete in the PBL," said commissioner Chino Trinidad.

CBF President Jack Huang said having PBL teams would bolster the competitiveness of Cebu talents. "We're very grateful to Commissioner Trinidad for helping us make this event possible. We're looking forward to a much stronger relationship between the CBF and the PBL," Huang said.

PBL chair Dioceldo Sy expects a tough fight for Blu and Montaña. "The Cebu basketball scene is alive and kicking. Our dribblers are going to have a hard time winning the title. But we can assure the fans of exciting, down-the-wire action, trademarks of PBL basketball," said Sy.

Also the owner of Blu, Sy expressed delight that the PBL is going back to Cebu after more than two years of absence. "Cebu brings back wonderful memories. Blu, which featured Asi Taulava, started to compete in the Vis-Min Cup."

Leading CBF's bid are Tortillas and Hapee-Cebu, sister squad of Kutitap Toothpaste, third placer in the recent PBL Challenge Cup.

The event will also serve as baptism of fire for new Blu mentor Leo Isaac. Egay Billones and Edwin Bacani have transferred to the PBA and Isaac recruited Jacques Gottenbos, Aries Dimaunahan, Rey Mendez and Lou Gatumbato to see action for the Detergent Kings.

Veterans Marlon Legaspi, Eric de la Cuesta and Tristan Codamon will continue to don Blu's colors.

Montaña, under coach Turing Valenzona, is bannered by Gary David, Nur Alfad, John Lim and Jenkins Mesina and Francis Zamora.

Baguio hosts Corporate Cup

BAGUIO—Teams bannered by Nueva Ecija Gov. Thomas Joson III, Mayor Bernardo Vergara, Gen. Rufo de Veyra and businessman Rico Brizuela will fight it out for top honors in the 14th edition of the Corporate Cup golf tournament here.

Joson heads Novo Ecijano, De Veyra banners the Philippine Military Academy, Vergara leads the Baguio campaign and Brizuela spearheads his company Airlift Asia in the 36-hole tourney at the challenging Club John Hay course.

Going for a repeat victory is the Pasga team with Archie Lacson, Pablo Soon and Andy Co at the helm.

There are at least 35 teams in the registry which will vie for big prizes topped by two Northwest Airlines business class tickets to New York and Wilson a golf set for hole-in-one feats.

The 150 participants and their respective teams will be classified according to their average handicaps with Group 1 for 0-9.99, Group II for 10-13.99 and Group III for 14-18.99 and Group IV for 19 and above.

There will be a separate division for seniors aged 55 and above in the event sponsored by Camp John Hay Devt. Corp., College Assurance Plan, Wilson Philippines, Le Souffle, Premier Wines and Spirits and Spirits, Nestle Phils., San Miguel Corp. and Smart.

Joining the local entries in the hunt for attractive team and individual prizes are *balikbayan* players from Hawaii, Japan, Indonesia, San Francisco, Texas and Canada.

Former Philippine Sports Commission chair Cecil Hechanova said that in choosing John Hay as this year's venue, organizers wanted to show the new amenities of John Hay which has become a world-class golfing destination.

Futsal football tourney starts Feb. 16

AFTER the successful three-day Nike coaches clinic last weekend, all is set for the Nike Futsal Open, a four-weekend competition slated Feb. 16 to March 9 at the Ateneo de Manila's Moro Lorenzo Sports Center in Katipunan.

Forty teams from different football clubs and collegiate teams in Metro Manila will participate in the National Capital Region Football Association-supported event which will have three divisions in the men's category and one for the women's.

Heading the guests for the opening ceremony on Feb. 16 are Nike officials led by sports marketing manager Auty Villarama, marketing manager Colo Ventos and sports marketing manager coordinator Rely San Agustin. Joining them are Philippine Football Federation president Rene Adad, PFF Futsal chair Joaquin Preysler, NCRFA president Santi Elizalde and Ateneo vice president for planning and development Fr. Carmelo Caluag.

Futsal is a five-a-side indoor soccer game popular in Europe and South America. In 1988, the game was incorporated by Fifa, the world's soccer governing body.

Senate spouses sponsor races

ALL roads lead to the San Lazaro Hippodrome starting today as the Senate Spouses Foundation Inc. (SSFI), in cooperation with the Manila Jockey Club Inc. (MJCI), unveils the opening card of its 5-day "Karera Para sa Puso" Racing Festival with back-to-back stakes highlight at the country's premier racing venue.

Also dubbed as the "Chinese New Year-Valentine Racing Carnival," the weeklong racing extravaganza starts with nine night races, headlined by a pair of top money Senate Spouses Foundation Cups.

"In behalf of the officers and members of the SSFI, I would like to invite all horse racing aficionados to support and patronize the 'Karera Para sa Puso' races, a project that is intended to raise funds for our foundation's long-standing program to set up nationwide centers for the elderly and sick," explained SSFI president Mrs. Milagros Drilon, wife of Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Highlight of the five-day "Karera Para sa Puso" racing carnival would be the staging of ten (10) top money events, top-billed by the P1 million "Senate President's Cup" on Sunday, Feb. 17.

"Manila Jockey Club is committed to come up with a series of top quality races for the duration of the 'Karera Para sa Puso' Festival and we would leave no stone unturned to ensure that our cards come up to the high standards of our regular patrons," said MJCI president and chief executive Alfonso Reyno Jr.

Two stakes races are scheduled to be run on the first three racing days covering the "Karera Para sa Puso Racing Festival," with bulk of the support coming from the Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation (Pagcor), the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and San Miguel Beer (SMB).

Feeling good

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IF you do something nice, don't you feel good?

Take it from me, fellas.

On Monday, even before I could start writing my shortest column ever announcing my withdrawal from running for president of the Philippine Sportswriters Association (it appeared here yesterday), I felt good already. I knew I would be doing something nice.

Manolo Inigo summed it all up yesterday: "What you did was for the sake of unity. My hat's off to you, podner."

Bert Cuevas called me up and said: "Thank you very much, *padre*. Six nights I couldn't sleep after learning that you would run against me. When I read in your column that you were giving way, I finally heaved a sigh of relief. Thank you, too, for the kind words. I owe you one, *padre*."

No, Bert, you owe me nothing. As I said, you are more deserving than me. Your decades of experience will surely come in handy as you handle the reins of our association. I'll be your soldier from hereon. Call me and I'll come running.

To some of my supporters who were saddened by my withdrawal, weep not. We can all serve the association in many ways, in our own little ways.

It is the spirit which we bring to the fight that decides victory. And between allies—which we all are—the way to resolve a conflict is the friendly way.

We are not the typical politicians, whose only permanent interest is ambition. I agree with Otto Von Bismarck: Politics is not an exact science. And I disagree with Aristotle: Man is by nature a political animal. For, if I were one, I would not have withdrawn.

Here's to friendship.

■

Major General Rufo A. de Veyra, superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy, wrote to say he was inviting me to play in the Superintendent's Cup "Class Struggle" Alumni Golf Tournament on Friday, Feb. 15, at Camp John Hay. Proceeds from the tournament will be used for the improvement of the facilities of the PMA Center for Sports and Physical Fitness Development.

The good General is a friend from way back. I would love to play but I just couldn't. Pressure of work, General. Thanks. Anyway, the General calls on participants to call Capt. Edgard A. Arevalo up at 074-447-2825 or 0918-9197426 for other details.

■

Wilma Lopez, Sol Juvida's dear friend who heads the Mangatarem Ladies Circle (Pangasinan), is calling on all Mangataremenians to join the ballroom dancing bash at the town auditorium on April 6. Proceeds from the P250-per-plate dinner-dance will be used for the renovation of the church. "We envision to attract at least 250 guests for the candlelight dinner before we go ballroom dancing starting at 8," said Wilma, wife of one of the town's well-loved doctors, Nanding Lopez.

Count me in, Wilma. That church means so much to me. I once served as an altar boy there.

Uh-oh, before I forget, today is Ash Wednesday (thanks, Chito DLV for reminding). And so, I'll be at Father Raffy's Our Lady of Remedies Chapel this morning for that sacred dent on the forehead.

Sotto, Potenciano sink holes-in-one

TWO stalwarts of the The Golf Authority (TGA) Jungolfers Club are slowly carving a niche in the local junior golf circuit by shooting separate holes-in-one in two successive tournaments held at the executive course of the Riviera Golf & Country Club in Silang, Cavite.

Ten-year-old Paulina Sotto, daughter of popular movie and TV personality Vic Sotto, made her ace with a seven iron at hole no. 6 in the Jan. 20 tourney.

Seven-year-old Christina Bianca Potenciano, daughter of Dr. Conrado Potenciano, who started formal golf lessons just four months ago, followed suit with another hole-in-one using also a seven iron at hole no. 3 in the Feb. 3 event.

The talented duo, together with other scholars of the TGA Jungolfers Club, are being mentored by leading local golf pro Bong Lopez and his TGA staff.

SPORTSWATCH

Flower Tee Invitational at Camp John Hay

IN celebration of the annual "Panagbenga" Flower Festival in Baguio City, Camp John Hay Golf Club (CJHGC) and Smart Communications are hosting the Smart-Flower Tee Invitational 2002 on Feb. 24. This was announced by Shean Bedi, Camp John Hay special events coordinator. "The Flower Tee tournament has been staged for many years now. But this is the first time that it will be held as a member and guest event," Bedi said. The 18-hole, medal team play tournament will use the two-man team format composed of a CJHGC member and his/her guest regardless of gender. For accommodations and details, call Abigail or Cheryl at (074) 446-0231 or the front desk reception at (074) 442-2561.

65 fights set at Galleros de Manila derby

SIXTY-FIVE explosive fights await *sabong* aficionados today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit for the 3rd leg of the Galleros de Manila 5-cock derby circuit. Galleros de Manila is the only cocking organization whose main objective is to enjoy *sabong*—without necessarily focusing on the gambling aspect of the sport. After two pulse-pounding derbies, Bobby del Rosario's Mangzee Farm entry solely occupies the driver's seat with 7.5 points. Galleros de Manila announced that it is going to be a buy-one, take-one ticket if one enters before 6 p.m. As a gesture of camaraderie, one can sit anywhere—ringside or bleachers—for P300 after 6 p.m. Hosts are Jimmyton Araneta, Emil Chua and Emoy Gorgonia.

Spencer Winslet, 2 others pace NCA 7-cockfest

THE BLOCKBUSTER NCA 7-cock Derby four-cock finals will start earlier than usual today, with the first fight set to kick off a 4 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum. Hosted by Rep. Claude and Boyboy Roa, three entries led the derby late Monday night by scoring three points each, while two others landed close on their heels with 2-1/2 points apiece. The early leaders were Spencer Winslet of Dicky Lim, solo champion of the recent World Slasher 8-Cock Derby; BPZ Sunshine of vetran Boy Primalion and Mulawin of Frank Berin and Rep. Rudy Albano. With 2-1/2 points were Winning Time DVH-Jobo I of Lito Orillaza and BL Laura of Boy Lechon and Louie Cua. Meanwhile, everything is set for the next all-star NCA-Cock Derby on Feb. 18-20, with three-term Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares and Manny Co as hosts.

PCSO FIRST GENTLEMAN'S CUP

Officials from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the Philippine Racing Commission and the Philippine Racing Club Inc. sign agreement formalizing arrangements relative to the 7th PCSO First Gentleman's Silver Cup Day on Feb. 24 at the Santa Ana Park. Seated from left were Philracom Chair Andrew Sanchez, PCSO Chair Ma. Livia "Honeygirl" de Leon, PCSO General Manager Virgilio Angelo and PRCI EVP and COO Ramon Ereneta Jr. Witnesses were (standing from left) Jose Malang, Carlo Mendez, Ma. Paz Magsalin, Juliet Aseo, Betsy Paruginog, Fernando Maramag, Manuel Garcia, Vicente Manalad, Carlos Castillo and Reynaldo Empremiado.

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

RP chessers whip India foes

MANILA, led by GMs Eugene Torre and Joey Antonio, subdued New Delhi, 3-1, in the 7th round of the Asian Cities Chess Team Championship (Dubai Cup) in Aden, Yemen on Monday. After a surprising draw with Jakarta, the win enabled Manila to retain third place out of the 18 participating teams from 12 countries. Torre and Antonio drew with Singh Gurpreetpal and Joshi GB respectively, while GM Bong Villamayor, playing black, defeated Karun Duggal and NM Manny Senador trounced Sareen Vishal.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA - New York Knicks vs Orlando Magic at 9 a.m. (r – 4:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.) on ESPN

US NCAA - Illinois vs Michigan State at 1 p.m., Kansas vs Texas at midnight (r) on ESPN

POOL: Rack 'Em Up - Francisco Bustamante vs Fabio Petroni at 7 p.m. on ESPN

NO WORKING CLEARANCE

Immigration detains Express imports

By Blanche S. Rivera

NEW PBA team FedEx suffered another setback following Sunday night's loss to Coca-Cola in the Governors Cup after the Bureau of Immigration arrested yesterday the team's two American imports for working without permits.

Jermaine Sherard Walker and Rhoderick Rhodes were picked up by Immigration agents during their practice at the FedEx gym in Parañaque around 11 a.m. yesterday.

The two were brought to the BID office in Intramuros where they were still detained at the legal division office as of presstime. (The two imports finally secured working permits from the BID late yesterday. See story below),

BID records showed that the FedEx filed an application for a special working permits for the imports on Feb. 8 at the BID office in Makati, but the application is still awaiting the approval by Commissioner Andrea Domingo.

Domingo said she did not yet grant special working permits because FedEx has failed to submit its income tax returns and audited financial statements as required by the BID rules and regulations.

FedEx lawyers were working double-time until late afternoon yesterday so Walker and Rhodes would not spend the night inside the BID jail.

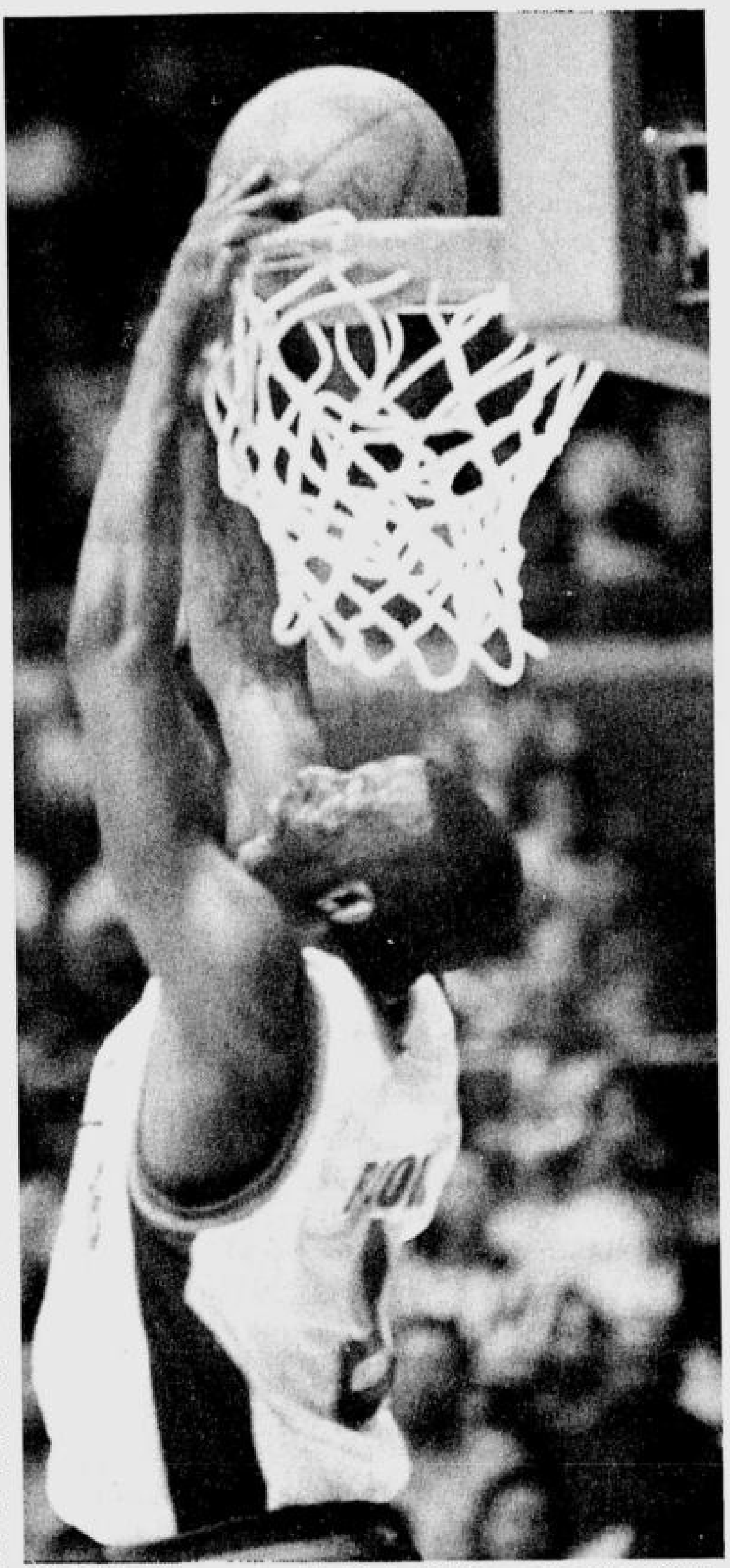
"The arrest was not meant to harass them but to issue a stern warning to those who violate Philippine immigration laws," Supt. Lino Calingasan, BID intelligence chief, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Walker and Rhodes arrived in the country last week, joining at least 12 other imports seeing action in the PBA 28th season's first conference.

Calingasan said the two imports, still lacking work permit, should not have seen action on the opening night of the first conference sponsored by Samsung last Sunday.

The PBA Samsung Governors Cup kicked off with a game between the FedEx Express and the Coca-Cola Tigers, where Coca-Cola beat FedEx, 66-62..

The BID has already cleared imports Jerald Honeycutt and Richard Frahm of Talk and Text; Roselll Ellis Jr. and Fred Williams of Coca-Cola; Joseph Bunn and Julius Nwosu of Batang Red Bull; Leonard White of Purefoods TJ Hotdogs; Muntrell Dobbins and Ron Riley of Alaska; Askia Jones Rahman of Shell; and Charles Wells and Jarrod Gee of Barangay Ginebra.



RHODES executes a reverse dunk during FedEx's opening game against Coca-Cola on Sunday. Coca-Cola won, 66-62. ROMY HOMILLADA

Rhodes, Walker secure permits; arrest denied

IN A press statement from FedEx, Express imports Rhoderick Rhodes and Jermaine Walker yesterday were finally able to secure their working permits from the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation BID to play in the country, particularly in the PBA Governors Cup.

According to FedEx president Lito Alvarez, Walker and Rhodes were allowed by the Games and Amusements Board (GAB) to play for the Express during their debut PBA game on Sunday after management showed GAB officials a received BID copy of the two imports' application for a working permit.

"Their personal appearance before the commission is a requirement by the immigration. All foreigners working here in the Philippines all pass through the same procedure," said Alvarez. "There is nothing unusual about this very normal process."

Alvarez thanked GAB for understanding the Express' predicament.

"The GAB people know very well that it takes time to get a special working permit from the BID, that's why they asked only for the received copy of the applications which were dated Feb. 8," said Alvarez. "We complied with all of the requirements so there is really no problem."

Walker and Rhodes were accompanied to the bureau by assistant team manager Jojo Lavina and legal counsel Atty. Manny Dionaldo.

The combination of Rhodes and Walker nearly steered the Airfreight 2100 owned-Express team past a veteran squad in Coca-Cola during the Express' PBA debut on Sunday. Coke won, 66-62.

Hot Bunn powers Red Bull past Shell

GAME TOMORROW (Makati Col)
6 p.m.—San Miguel vs Selecta

RED Bull paraded an explosive import in Joe Bunn as the Thunder ripped the Shell Turbo Chargers, 94-81, last night in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Bunn, a 6-foot-3 bruiser from North Carolina, exploded for 47 points to lead the Thunder to their first win at the expense of the Turbo Chargers.

Despite missing the services of Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi, the Thunder rose to the challenge as Bunn, Willie Miller, Julius Nwosu and Junthy Valenzuela amply filled the void.

Harp and Pennisi were loaned to the national training pool and will see action for RP Team-Selecta.

Bunn, who also grabbed 19 rebounds and went 20-of-29 from the field in his debut, pulled the Thunder early out of a tight contest as he pumped 30 of his total points in the first half.

The Turbo Chargers, however, couldn't get their game going after falling 51-43 at the half despite only carrying a light handicap due to the absence of defensive ace Chris Jackson. Jackson and rookie Chris Calaguio are playing for RP Team-Selecta this conference.

RED BULL 94—Bunn 47, Miller 14, Nwosu 12, Tugade 9, Valenzuela 7, Torion 3, Mendoza 2, Hizon 0, Reyes 0.

SHELL 81—Jones 24, Wainwright 18, Grimm 16, Sison 9, Esplana 6, Paras 4, Dela Cruz 2, Del Rosario 2, Hrabak 0, Bacani 0, Marzan 0.

Quarterscores: 28-21, 51-45, 76-61, 94-81

Give me a chance, says Pals US coach

By June Navarro

AMERICAN Bill Bayno yesterday expressed confidence he would secure a permit from the Department of Labor to call the shots for Talk N Text in time for the Phone Pals' game against Purefoods on Saturday.

Bayno's pronouncement came despite a wave of protest from the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines, which denounces the hiring of a foreign coach for a PBA squad.

BCAP president Chito Narvasa openly declared war on Bayno's appointment, citing a 1998 Dole restriction on the hiring of foreign coaches.

The BCAP had threatened to bring the case to court should Talk N Text management insist on designating Bayno as head coach of the Phone Pals.

"I haven't been able to talk to the BCAP but I appreciate Mr. Narvasa's comments made in public that this is not a personal battle between me and the BCAP. I also understand their position. I'm just hoping that they give me a chance," said Bayno.

"Saturday will be fun. We have a pretty good indication where we're right now. Pressure defense and up-tempo offense will be the focus of our game," he added.

Bayno called the shots for University of Las Vegas-Nevada for five seasons in the '90s and had steered the Running Rebels to three conference titles in the US NCAA during his stint that started in 1995.

Cuevas voted new PSA head

MANILA Standard sports editor Bert Cuevas was voted as the new president of the Philippine Sportswriters Association during yesterday's election at the Holiday Inn hotel.

Cuevas ran unopposed as head of the country's oldest media organization, succeeding Philippine Star's Lito Tacujan who decided not to seek another term after serving as president for two years.

As per the PSA's new ruling, Cuevas appointed Malaya sports editor Jimmy Cantor as vice president, Edwin Gabutina of Today as secretary, People's Journal's Joe Antonio as treasurer and Tribune's Aldrin Cardona as auditor.

Sports editors of the various newspapers led by INQUIRER's Al Mendoza were appointed, as members of the board.

11 nominated to Nat'l Basketball Hall of Fame

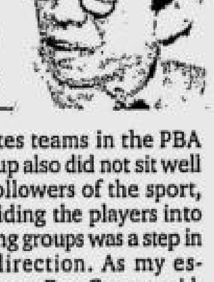
ELEVEN top players of the past out of 24 earlier nominated will vie for final slots in the third induction ceremony of the National Basketball Hall of Fame tentatively set for next month at the Manila Peninsula Hotel.

After much debate and deliberations, those named (in alphabetical order) were: Manolet Araneta, Kurt Bachmann, Charlie Badion, Loreto Carbonell, Gerry Cruz, Eddie Decena, Eddie Lim, Luis "Moro" Lorenzo, Alfonso "Boy" Marquez, Francisco Rabat and Mariano "Nano" Tolentino.

Fifty-three names, including that of Robert Jaworski, who is now a senator, and Ramon Fernandez, both Micaa and PBA luminaries during their heyday, were originally submitted to the Hall of Fame Steering committee chaired by executive director former Rep. and now Bukidnon Gov. Jose Zubiri. But after the experts' comments and opinions were digested, the committee narrowed the list to 24 and now reduced to 11. This list of 11 nominees will then be submitted to the Board of Trustees which in turn will select the final Hall of Fame awardees. The Board of Trustees is headed by respected businessmen-sportsmen Manolo Lopez of Meralco and Fernando Zobel de Ayala of Ayala Corp., chair and vice chair, respectively.

"Jaworksi and Fernandez, together with the other youngster basketball greats of their era, were not included in the list of nominees because they are not yet eligible for nomination since one of the criteria of the Hall of Fame Foundation is that a candidate must have retired from active playing for 10 years," said Zubiri. "Thus, they still have to wait for a few more years before they could qualify for nomination." The other criteria are: the candidate must be an outstanding player of his time and he must be of good moral character. Previous Hall of Fame ceremonies were held in 1999 and 2000, with Carlos Loyzaga and Lauro Mumar leading the elite list, respectively.

Daunting task in Asiad caging



CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

WITH much respected American coach Ron Jacobs gone due to sickness and the players undergoing tryouts, the Philippines will be facing a daunting task in the basketball competitions of the Asian Games in Pusan this September.

First of all, the country's preparations for the Asiad started a mite-too-late (the national training pool was formed only last January) unlike their rivals who have been playing as a team many years ahead of their Filipino counterparts. So much so that even if the country fielded its leading PBA players in Pusan, it would still be confronted with a formidable prospect in the Asiad basketball wars.

"The Filipinos are definitely facing a rough sailing in Pusan. It's not only China and Korea that stand in their way," said Carl Menky Ching, president of the Asian Basketball Confederation, "they also have to contend with Lebanon, one of the strongest teams in the region, whose players are quite strong, experienced and skillful."

The 62-year-old Menky Ching also noted the Filipinos' lack of international exposure. "You cannot gauge the strength of your players unless they compete in international competitions. They should go outside and play against foreign teams," stressed the Hong Kong-based ABC official, adding that his comments were not meant to demoralize the Filipino players but merely his personal assessment of the situation.

Meanwhile, the tryouts featuring two candidates teams in the PBA Governors' Cup also did not sit well with many followers of the sport, who said dividing the players into two contending groups was a step in the wrong direction. As my esteemed colleague Bert Cuevas said, "They should have formed the Philippine team long ago and let it loose in the two PBA conferences before the Pusan Games. The continuing tryouts will only hamper progress and derail preparations of the Filipino quintet. If the Philippine team had been formed earlier, the coaches can start implementing now the combinations and plays that could toughen the team and make it truly competitive."

At present, there are at least seven to eight PBA players who are considered shoo-ins for the Asiad-bound selection, leaving the coaches with only just a few more candidates to choose from to complete their roster. While at the same time, the other star players who failed to make the RP selection could return to their respective mother teams to beef up their depleted lineups, thus ensuring a more competitive, colorful and exciting PBA 28th season.

UST netter shines

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas netter Ma. Edna Charise Godoy was yesterday named to the three-member RP squad that will see action in the Federation Cup, the world's largest international women's team tennis tournament.

Godoy, who was instrumental in the Lady Tigress' title sweep in the UAAP last Sunday, earned her place in the RP squad after beating Alyssa Labay, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3, and Julie Ann Cadiente, 6-4, 7-5, in the three-day eliminations conducted by the Philippine Tennis Association at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Anna Patricia Santos of University of the Philippines also passed the tryouts, beating Cadiente, 7-6 (4), 6-0, and Labay, 6-4, 6-1. Czarina Mae Arevalo, the country's No. 1 player, completes the national team that will compete in the Asia-Oceania Group 1 qualifying event slated March 4-10 at the Guangzhou Fangcun Tennis Center hardcourt in China. The Philippines is one of 11 nations participating in the Group 1 event where the top two nations will advance to the World Group qualifying playoffs in July.

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If you're SMART we've got Amazing Perks for you this February!

side A freestyle
BACK2BACK
LIVE ON TOUR

600 tickets to be given away!

Both SMART Gold & SMART Buddy subscribers have a chance to watch the Side A and Freestyle concerts for free! Feb. 8 & 9, Araneta Coliseum, Feb. 16, Cebu Sports Plaza, Feb. 23, Clark Expo.

100 tickets to Brian McKnight's Valentine concert to be given away!

If you're a lucky SMART Gold subscriber you could watch his February 14 concert in the Araneta Coliseum for free!

If you're a SMART subscriber you could get free tickets to some hot gigs. If you're on SMART Gold you just might catch Brian McKnight's Valentine concert featuring Regine Velasquez! Or you could get tickets to Side A and Freestyle's joint concerts! Lucky SMART Gold and SMART Buddy subscribers will be randomly selected, so just wait for our call. Plus, all SMART subscribers can enjoy loads of other gigs and gimmicks all this month and throughout the year! We even have fantastic discounts and privileges for SMART Money Cardholders. So have an amazing February with SMART!

Here are the other SMART gimmicks for this month.

For more details, visit the SMART booth at each venue.

Manila

Jenine Desiderio: Romancing the Eastwood
Feb. 14, Eastwood. 50 reserved seats for SMART subscribers and one companion each.

***Bert Nievera's Valentine's Dinner Concert**
Feb. 14 & 15, Country Waffles Eastwood. Get a 10% discount on your bill when you pay with SMART Money (excluding the ticket of the concert). Get a free half waffle at Country Waffles Eastwood from Feb. 16 to March 4 just by presenting your SMART Money card.

Cebu*

***Red Report at Mi Vida**
Feb. 14 at Mi Vida, Cebu. 15 complimentary tickets for SMART subscribers. 10% off on food and drinks plus a free special drink for SMART Money Cardholders.

***Euphoria: Valentine's High Life Edition**
Feb. 14, High Life at Crossroads. 5% off on food and drinks for SMART Money Cardholders. Plus, enjoy a free special drink.

Davao

Danni's Rhythm of Love featuring Spindrift
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Negros Oriental

Nahigugma Kuh ni Kuh Ledesma: Post Valentine Concert
Feb. 27, Bais Auditorium. Reserved seats for the first 250 SMART subscribers and one companion each.

Baguio*

***Valentine's Show at Pilgrims**
Feb. 14, Pilgrims Bar. 5% discount when you pay using SMART Money, guaranteed seats for the first 10 SMART subscribers and one companion each. Plus, enjoy a free special drink.

***Gimbals**
Feb. 14 & 15, Gimbals. 5% discount when you pay with SMART Money plus guaranteed seats for the first 10 SMART subscribers and one companion each. Plus, enjoy a free special drink.

***Amazing Nights at 18 B. C.**
All Saturdays of Feb. (9, 16, 23) at 18 B.C. Reserved seats for the first 10 SMART subscribers and one companion each. 10% off when you pay with SMART Money. Plus, enjoy a free special drink.

***Amazing Nights at Cactus Bar**
Feb. 14 & 15, Cactus Bar. Reserved seats for the first 10 SMART subscribers and one companion each. 15% off when you pay with SMART Money. Plus, enjoy a free special drink.

Watch out for more free invites, only for SMART subscribers.

* Promo period: Feb. 9 to March 2, 2002. You can only avail of the discounts and special privileges on the dates indicated above.
* Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0426 Series of 2002.

Plus, enjoy these great discounts and privileges when you pay with SMART Money!

SMART Money February Promos

- Marks & Spencer - Get a 15% discount on all wine purchases in all outlets (This excludes wines that are included in Marks & Spencer's in-store promo).
  Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0386 Series of 2002.
  Promo period: Feb. 6 - 28, 2002.
- Golden Blossoms, G/F NGR Bldg. South Superhighway cor. Casino St. Palanan, Makati - One free box of Ferrero Chocolates for every one dozen flowers purchased.
  Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0474 Series of 2002.
  Promo period: Feb. 8 - 28, 2002.
- Mall Runner - This free service lets you make dinner reservations for two and pay in advance at Dish or at any Steak Town branch. Just call 845-2330 to 32 from Mondays to Fridays, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and enjoy a worry-free Valentine's date!
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- Vudu, Cebu - 10% discount on food and drinks.
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- Bistro Remedios, Malate, Manila - 5% discount on food and drinks.
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Mandaluyong's 'secret' revealed /A22
Bare Eye: Dick Gordon plays it blind to bring in tourist dollars /A22

METRO
Editor Louie C. Camino

Text Uz to Help Uz!
Send a wish to the children of Bantay Bata, text BB163 WISH <your name> Happy Birthday Bantay Bata and send to 2366 for Globe, Smart and Talk & Text.
Send a pledge to Bantay Bata, text BB163 GIVE <yourname> <landline> and send to 2366 for Globe, Smart and Talk & Text.
All wishes and pledges will be aired on the Children's Village daily over ANC, 5:30 - 6:00 pm

Aglipay transfers protesting cop

By Philip C. Tubeza

A MANILA traffic policeman who complained about the arbitrary transfers of Metro Manila policemen to the provinces yesterday found himself reassigned also.

SPO1 Antonio V. Emmanuel, vice president of the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association Inc. (MFBAI), was "temporarily" transferred from his Manila post to the headquarters of the Philippine National Police Traffic Enforcement Group (PNP-TEG) in Makati City.

Emmanuel was transferred after he implied that Director Edgar Aglipay, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, was lying when he claimed that there was no National Police Commission (Napolcom) memo ordering the PNP to stop transferring the policemen.

"(PNP-TEG) chief Supt. Joselito Maralit ordered me verbally to stay there (in Makati) for the meantime until this matter is resolved," Emmanuel said.

In a statement he sent to the INQUIRER yesterday, Emmanuel clarified there was a "misapprehension of facts" between him and reporter Jerome Aning, who wrote the story about Aglipay's alleged lie.

He said he told Aning that the Napolcom memo exists and that Aglipay "might have no knowledge yet" of the order.

Emmanuel admitted he was "not comfortable with his transfer" since it would affect his work as an MFBAI official. Besides being vice president of MFBAI, he is also the head of the MFBAI traffic enforcers association.

Emmanuel said Manila's Finest was not "antagonistic" to the policies of the PNP hierarchy. He said the MFBAI only wants to ensure the welfare of non-commissioned police officers.

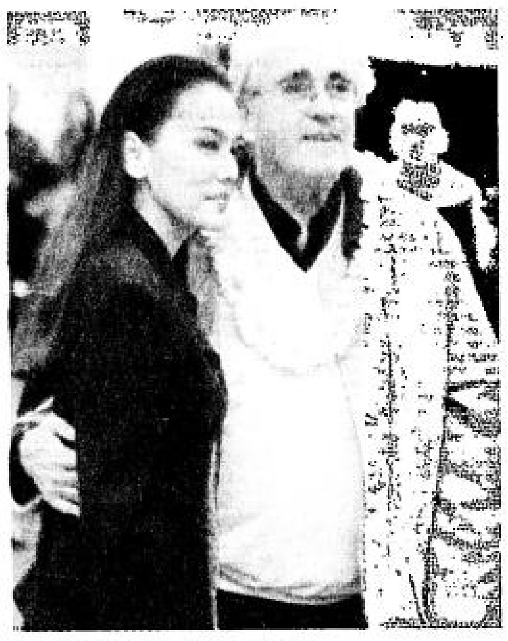
Aglipay earlier said his office got an official copy of the order, which was dated Jan. 31, only "on Feb. 7 or 8."

In a memo, Napolcom executive director Rogelio Pureza ordered police officials to stop the transfers and return all reassigned personnel to their mother units.

"Actions of PNP officials are subject to the Civil Service Law and its implementing rules and regulations should never be arbitrary or tainted with military un-

AGLIPAY/ A22

AGLIPAY



LEGRAND ENTRANCE
Songwriter-composer Michel Legrand is welcomed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport by singer Kuh Ledesma two days before Valentine's Day. The French-born composer of such modern classics as "The Windmills of Your Mind," "What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life," "I Will Wait for You" and the soundtrack of the Streisand film "Yentl," is performing with Ledesma on Feb. 14 and 15 at the PICC. Legrand has won Oscars and Grammies for his music. ROGER MARGALLO

Abalos tries to bridge gap between local officials

By Christian V. Esguerra

METRO Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. on Monday accepted a request by mayors to mediate in the brewing rift between congressmen and the local executives over city projects.

Abalos said he will meet with Taguig Mayor Sigfrido Tinga and Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano sometime this week to settle their problem.

"The three of us will sit together and, hopefully, we'll finally settle the issue," Abalos said.

Tinga and Cayetano are at odds over the supposed lack of coordination in implementing their various projects in Taguig.

The mayor claimed the problem is also prevalent in other towns and cities in the metropolis.

The Tinga-Cayetano rift has even gone public: The town's streets are flooded with hundreds of white papers for or against the politicians.

Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad, Metro Manila Mayors' League spokesperson, the other day asked the MMDA to step in and settle the problem between the congressmen and the mayors.

Abalos said he has already initiated dia-

ABALOS/A22

WAZZZZUP ?
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8th day cafe St. Francis Sq. Ortigas Ctr.	BOYZTOWN	PIDO W/TAKE 1 FEB. 14 ☎ 634.7696/98
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Cowboy Grill Biñan, Laguna	PHYRIGIAN ZEST	☎ (049)511.7268
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Cowboy Grill Remedios St. Malate	SWEETBLOOD FREEZE	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
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KAMPO 2088 West Avenue Q.C.	GLADYS & D' BOXER w/K NEXT PAGE/M.O.G.	☎ 373-5110
Friends @ the square St. Francis Sq. Ortigas Center	D'GROOVE	DV8 FEB. 15 ☎ 635.0279
TIA MARIA'S Jupiter St. Makati City	FLIGHT E - 7	☎ 890.4735
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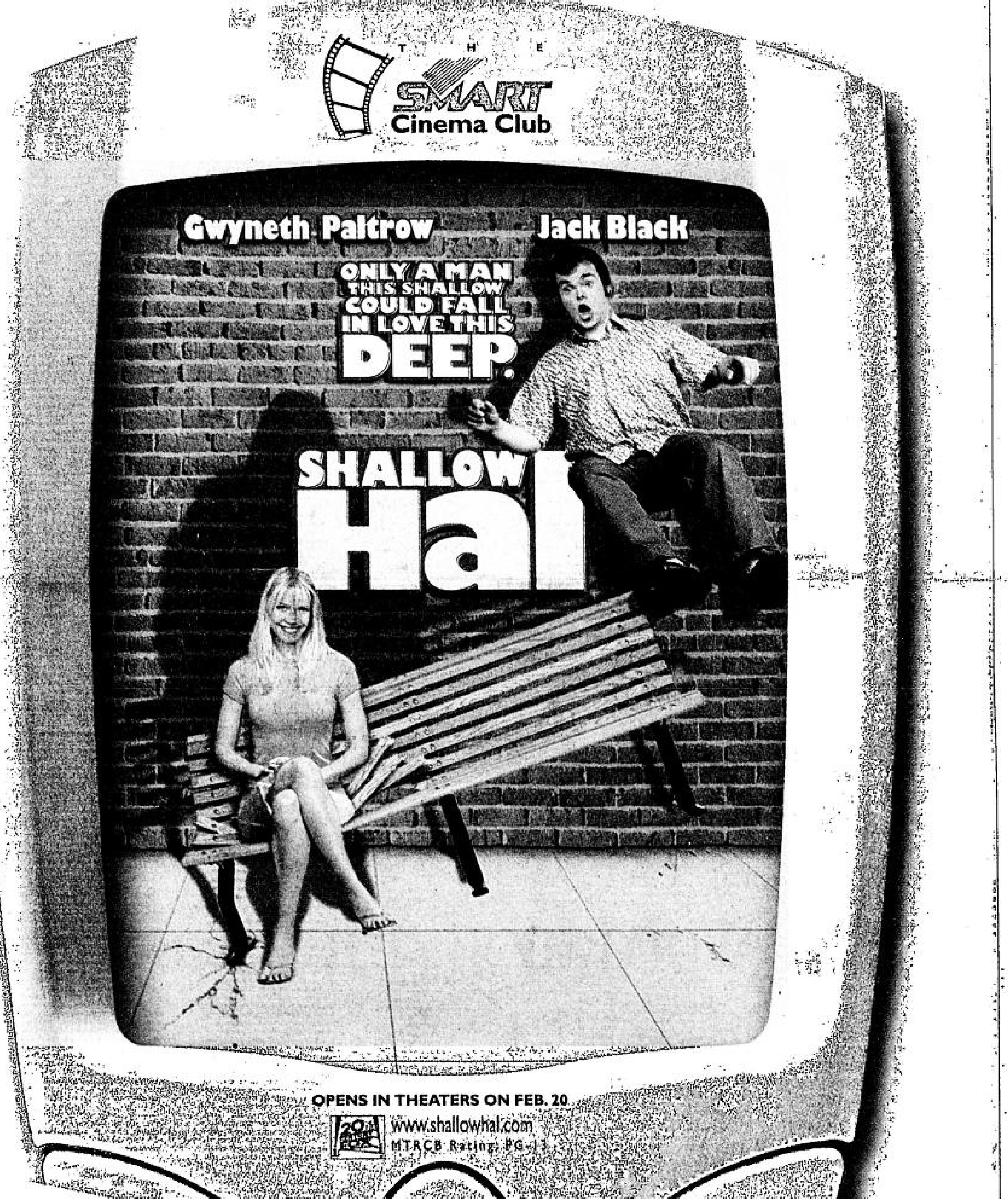

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Logos*	LOGO <keyword> and send to 239	Picture messages keywords	PIC HAL and send to 239	Screen savers*	SAVER <keyword> and send to 239
Group graphics keywords	GROUP HAL and send to 239	Picture messages*	PIC <keyword> and send to 239	To quit	QUIT and send to 239

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Dick Gordon plays it blind to bring in tourist dollars

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

WHEN Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon said he wanted to stage a second Thrilla in Manila, he was like a guy trying to tickle a friend. The announcement felt and sounded like a good joke.

Now that it's clear Gordon is serious about this very ambitious bid, we must try to mention the attendant risks.

First of all, it must be put on record that we cannot afford it.

The price tag for the grand merchandise, to feature a world heavyweight boxing title clash between Lennox Lewis and Mike Tyson, could soar past the $100-million mark, site fee and purses included.

The original Thrilla in Manila of 1975 was supposed to have cost only $10 million. But, from what we would learn later, top local figures behind the promotion, including a bald former head of the Games and Amusements Board, had been charged in court over shaky accounting.

OK, Mr. Gordon, a whiz kid, could dig hard enough and raise the choking sum.

But it would not be merely a question of money, and the lack of it.

***

The Staples Center in California, reported my homecoming friend Gerry Mayor, avoided Tyson like a plague.

Not even Tokyo was generous—and courageous—enough to make a bid.

The first and last time Tyson fought in the Japanese capital, main sponsor Toyota, reportedly all set to launch a vehicle with the Iron Mike brand, ended up groaning on the floor.

No, Tyson did not bite his opponent. He just got knocked out cold by Buster Douglas, who himself turned out later to be a full-fledged flop.

Philippine tourism, deep in the dumps, sorely needs a salesman.

But Mike Tyson, please be properly warned, is the most risky vendor to sell the charm of our golden islands.

As my friend Jake de Jesus has noted, Tyson is "back to normal." Iron Mike, in fact, aptly demonstrated he needed a chain around his neck after he charged like a tiger at Lewis and tried to bite off his rival's socks during a presscon.

* * *

Who among curious fight fans doesn't want to see Tyson in the flesh?

Problem is there can never be an assurance that the mad man of world boxing would not behave his usual self if and when he is finally let off the leash around here.

Lewis himself should not be a problem. But, just like Tyson, he cannot be counted on as a foolproof salesman for RP tourism.

Lewis has had a shameful history of going down and out with just one punch. This disease was exposed in the two awful stoppages he had suffered against Oliver McCall and Hashim Rahman.

Tyson vs Lewis could indeed be a hell of a fight.

But with the ever-mounting menace in his heart, who can say that Tyson would not again go mad-dog mad inside the ring?

Yes, there's always the danger of Tyson ably telling the whole world that the Philippines has become a big lair of international terrorists.

* *

Tyson ultimately ending up a rallying point, even a shining symbol, of the hated Abu Sayyaf is not far-fetched.

Problem is, Dick Gordon has a problem so big he has dared solve it with an untested sales pitch.

He may not be able to raise the enormous sum needed to mount his dream bout. But Mr. Gordon should be happy enough that he had already made the world take notice.

Today's Nick Giongco, an avid Internet surfer, yesterday noted that the country's ambitious bid to hold the stalled Lewis-Tyson fight had gotten noteworthy play in international media.

Reported the Newark Star-Ledger: "There's the Philippines, which is making a pitch for Tyson-Lewis, billing it as a repeat of the Thrilla in Manila between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier. Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said the Philippines was serious about landing the match to promote the country."

Giongco added that the BBC, on its website, dedicated several paragraphs to Gordon's bid, adding the country needs a huge international event such as the megabuck heavyweight bout to get rid of its poor international image.

* *

Another Thrilla in Manila?

Well, it would be worth all the risks if the fighters we propose to host are in their prime.

For the record, the result of the original Thrilla clearly bared that Ali and Frazier, meeting for the third and last time, had saved their best for the Oct. 1, 1975 encounter at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ali said it right when he predicted that the world would stop the moment he threw his first punch in that legendary fight that had risen to mythical heights, with the luminous rivals glowing like godly combatants.

In short, the first Thrilla in Manila was a sure bestseller even before it started.

The main characters had been honed to near perfection.

I had bet on you, Ferdinand Marcos, in shining *barong*, told Muhammad Ali as he moved into the fire-bright boxing ring.

You don't need the money, Ali, bare-chested, shot back sharply at his host.

Ali went on the win the classic fight after Frazier, in danger of going blind, failed to report for the 15th and final round.

We need to gamble to win the tourism dollars. But, unlike Smokin' Joe, Dick Gordon is obviously playing his cards blind.

(TY TIDBITS: A salute to my ageless friend, Bert Cuevas, veteran of the Siege of Eiffel Tower, on his election as president of the Philippine Sportswriters Association. ...The town fiesta of Sta. Maria, Bulacan in honor of the La Purisima Concepcion last Thursday, complete with brass bands, beauties, goodies and vendors from far-away provinces, was a grand success. Local idols Porong Cruz and Manding Gerona remain thankful to those who joined in the feast, like national budget executive Ely Mendoza, engineer Cris Garcia, Itoy San Pedro, Jun Alido, Gerry and Michael Cruz and their muse, Roselle Antonio of Tingloy, Batangas.)

Mandaluyong's 'secret' revealed

By Nelson F. Flores

MAYOR Benhur Abalos (right), with Mandaluyong residents, believes that his city government's biggest achievement is in its people.

"SYNERGY between the government and its people is the secret behind the growth of Mandaluyong City," said Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr.

In his recent annual State of the City Address, Abalos said it is the same formula that his father, former mayor and now Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., used in transforming the city from a backwater town by the Pasig River to an economic giant in eastern Metro Manila in the mid-'80s.

Abalos said the cooperation between the local government and the people of Mandaluyong transformed the city to what it is now, a bustling commercial center and residential area.

Despite the economic crunch, the efforts of a hardworking people steered the city into continuing prosperity, Abalos said.

Citing last year's tremendous increase in the city income to P1 billion from P857 million in 1998, when he first assumed office, Abalos said this was proof Mandaluyong is prospering amid the financial crisis. The economic achievement of the city was translated into a successful implementation of projects and related activities in infrastructure development, drainage and sewerage system, he said.

The city was also able to provide its employees and residents better health and education programs.

Massive electrification and lighting projects, and asphalting of major roads were undertaken to mark the city's progress. Pumping stations in waterless barangays brought water to the areas.

"Our record in peace and order maintenance, waste management, promotion of arts and culture could speak for itself," Abalos said.

He also noted the automation of a number of services the city government provides its employees and residents. Teachers were given regular rice allowances, and fringe benefits were also allotted for lowly city government employees.

"Our greatest achievement can be found not just on record," he said. "It is present in the men and women of Mandaluyong who contribute to clean governance."

The mayor thanked President Macapagal-Arroyo for approving Executive Order No. 47 mandating the development of the Welfareville area, the city's most depressed area. He said this has been the "realization of a 45-year-old dream" of the Abalos family.

By September, the city government will begin work on Welfareville to develop it into a residential and commercial area, Abalos said. He said this would complement the recent move of the Mandaluyong City Chamber of Commerce declaring the city the "Shopping Capital of the Philippines."

In Board Resolution No. 01-2001, the chamber declared Mandaluyong the shopping capital of the Philippines. The city is home to the country's biggest malls like SM Megamall, Shangri-La Plaza Crossings Department Store, Robinsons' Galleria, Starmall, Puregold and Edsa Central's Mayflower.

Quoting chamber president Robert Rivera, Abalos described Mandaluyong as "the only place in the Philippines where malls stand side by side and attract millions of people day by day. It is a business haven and the city only deserves to be known as the country's shopping capital."

The mayor said the city's businessmen find it timely to give Mandaluyong City this honor, since existing and interested investors measure and identify sound and profitable business in the city in terms of favorable showings of mall-related businesses.

"The increase in the number of shopping malls and commercial skylines in Mandaluyong (has) catapulted it to become a Class A city and the immediate future's most important business district," Abalos said, quoting Rivera. "We are expecting an influx of business investors and opportunities."

To keep this reputation, the city government directed the city's police to intensify measures that would deter criminals, Abalos said.

He vowed to work for the development of the city as a major cosmopolitan area and banking center. Boni Avenue and Gen. Kalentong Streeet would be revitalized, he said.

The plight of the city's youth, senior citizens, people with disabilities and other marginalized sectors would be addressed, he said.

Homecoming

THE UNIVERSITY the Philippines Prep High School '62 committee invites all Batch 1962 graduates to attend the school's Ruby jubilee alumni homecoming Feb. 10-17.

Activities include mini-reunions from Feb. 12 to 15, capped by a Valentine's Day party on Feb. 16 at the residence of Flor Gozon-Tarriela in Valle Verde. The homecoming will culminate on Feb. 17 at the Forbes Park residence of Delfin Lazaro.

Call Letty Velasco-Guiao at 647-1222, Tess Sempio-Palomo at 564-0744, Lorna Alfonte-Chua at 528-0709 or 896-0303, Edna Ledesma at 894-2827 or Willy Caballa at 435-2320 or 942-0990.

Aglipay transfers protesting . . .

From page A21

dertones," Pureza said. "Verily, the acts of regional directors (ordering the transfers) demonstrate practices that contradict and undermine the 'civilian character' of police forces and the supremacy of civilian authority principle (in the) Constitution.

"(Police officials) had been reassigning policemen outside their police stations, districts, and even their own regions, without prior notice and summary hearing in violation of their right to due process under the law," Pureza added.

"Moreover, the arbitrary transfer of PNP personnel to places where they are complete strangers is counter-productive and violates the principle of assigning PNP members to places where they reside or nearest to their residence."

He added that police officials should "desist from performing arbitrary relief and reassignments in the future, and be reminded that other PNP units should never be the *tapunan* (dumping ground) of perceived undesirables."

Parañaque beauty to win P100,000

PARAÑAQUE City highlights its celebration of its fourth year as a city with the coronation of Bb. Parañaque 2002 on Feb. 14 at the San Dionisio multi-purpose gym in Barangay San Dionisio.

A cash prize of P100,000 awaits this year's winner who will be picked from among the candidates representing 12 of the city's 18 barangays, according to Parañaque City Tourism Council OIC Lina S. Hilario.

On Monday, the beauty title contenders were presented to Mayor Joey Marquez, honorary chair of the executive organizing committee of the cityhood anniversary celebration.

The candidates are Donna Jean K. Soylon of Barangay Don Galo, Cassandra Fatima D. Joveres of Sun Valley, Marie Shield M. Avillanoza of San Isidro, Michelle S. Schulte of BF Homes, Glowilsa Pamisal of San Antonio, Lailanie A. Garcia of Moonwalk;

Ethel Rose S. David of San Dionisio, Leslie B. Belvis of Merville, Karizma DM. Cajipe of Baclaran, Dizza B. Viojan of Sto. Nino, Avegail Rapisura of Tambo and Jemina C. Cortez of Don Bosco.

"Dance Mania," to be hosted by Regine Tolentino and Carlos Agassi on Feb. 17 also at San Dionisio gym, caps the cityhood anniversary celebration. All 18 barangays of the city are fielding between seven and 12 dancers each.

With Marquez and Hilario in the organizing committee are Michael Locsin, Elias Alano, Rosalia Tongson, Lina Ty, Ricarda Nene Adam, Pete Katipunan, Marilyn Reyes, Nitz Wenceslao, Edgardo Bayani, Angel Sta. Agueda, Fe Factor, Della Burton, Joy Mamansag, Della Engracia, Baby Torella, Esther Poblete, Marie Tablang, Cecilia Tan and Divina Sacramento.

Woman shabu dealer gets life

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA regional trial court judge yesterday sentenced to life imprisonment a mother who was caught with 370 grams of shabu during a buy-bust operation in Quiapo two years ago.

But due to the absence of mitigating or aggravating circumstances, Judge Rodolfo Ponferrada of the Manila RTC Branch 41 spared Anisa Rachman Abdul from the death penalty.

Court records show that National Bureau of Investigation agents arrested Abdul on June 10, 1999 near a fast-food store on C.M. Recto Avenue. The NBI agents said they received information that Abdul was peddling drugs in the Quiapo area.

The suspect and two companions were arrested as soon as they handed the shabu worth P360 to an NBI agent who posed as a buyer.

The three were tried separately.

Abdul claimed that one of the other suspects, Emil Aragasi Osman, owned the shabu. She said she only went with Osman, a *sari-sari* storeowner who sought her help in obtaining an NBI clearance.

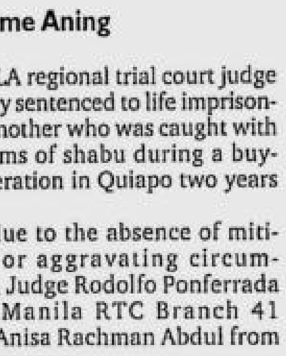
She said she arrived from Cotabato on June 7 to follow up her application for an overseas job.

She said she went with Usman to Quiapo on June 10, thinking she would only accompany the other woman to the NBI. Usman and a certain Moniza made her hold a plastic bag which they later gave to a man in a car, who later turned out to be an NBI agent.

Judge Ponferrada ruled that while the court "symphatizes" with her, it "cannot close its eyes" to the fact that the prosecution was able to prove beyond reasonable doubt her participation in the drug sale.

The judge also ordered Abdul to pay a fine of P500,000.

Pedicab driver does a Tyson



By Christian V. Esguerra

PEDICAB driver Rogelio Banez did a Mike Tyson and bit off the ear of his friend in a row over P20 in Las Piñas over the weekend.

Banez, 57, took his cue from the infamous biting boxer when the driver chewed on a portion of Fidel Estrada's right ear about 6 p.m. Sunday, police said.

SPO1 Roberto Alipalo said it all started when Banez went to Estrada's house on Receiver Street for a drink about 2 p.m. Sunday.

When they finished a bottle of brandy, the two decided to continue their binge at a nearby store, police said. Estrada gave Banez P20 for another bottle of brandy.

But instead of drinking at the store, the friends, who were drunk by that time, decided to go to a videoke bar, police said. Estrada's wife later came to fetch him, saying he had friends waiting for him in the house.

The victim left the bar and went home. He came back later and asked Banez, his friend of five years, to give back his P20 because he needed to buy a round of drinks for his friends at home, police said.

When Banez refused to return the money, he and Estrada came to blows. They fought, grappled and rolled on the street, police said.

During the fight, witnesses noticed a piece of flesh on the ground. Then they saw Estrada's right ear bleeding profusely, with its lower portion missing.

Police are set to file serious physical injury charges against Banez.

Navotas has Metro's best municipal police station

THE RESCUE of a kidnapping victim and the quick arrest of suspects in two robbery cases are among the accomplishments that earned the Navotas police the recognition as Metro Manila's best municipal police force for 2001.

The award for Best Municipal Police Station was given by the National Capital Region Police Office during last week's 11th anniversary celebration of the Philippine National Police (PNP). The Navotas police chief, Supt. Roberto Villanueva, received the award.

The Navotas police force has consistently won the honor as Best Municipal Police Station of the Month during the last quarter of 2001.

Navotas has 119 police officers to protect and serve a population of close to 3,000.

Mayor Toby Tiangco has donated to the police force nine patrol cars and two motorcycles and has converted a cargo container into an air-conditioned police detachment.

Tiangco said the town police deserved the award. "Their dedication is beyond question," he said.

Villanueva said that last July, Navotas police officers tracked down a gang that kidnapped businesswoman Bertiza Tan and rescued her.

They also recovered more than P700,000 stolen in two robberies and arrested three suspects.

Abalos . . .

From page A21

logues between the mayors and congressmen, adding he will soon release a memorandum that will define the MMDA policy on city and municipal projects.

"But even without a policy, mayors and congressmen can discuss the issue and settle it amicably," he said. "I think any problem can be settled through honest-to-goodness dialogue."

Abalos also suggested for congressmen to submit to their respective mayors a list of projects they plan to implement for a particular year.

Mayors may then sit with their congressmen and determine if there is a duplication of projects, he said.

When there is duplication, either the mayor or congressman may realign the budget for another project, Abalos said.

"In the end, it will be a win-win solution for both mayors and congressmen," Abalos said. "More importantly, it will benefit the people."

AYALA CINEMAS

ARTFILM - GREENBELT

Art Film

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted

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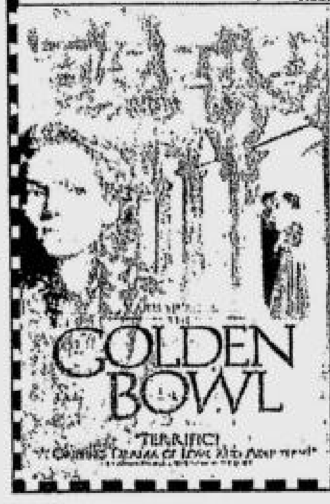

KATE BECKINSALE
ANGELICA HOUSTON
JEREMY NORTHAM

JAMES FOX
NICK NOLTE
& UMA THURMAN

THE GOLDEN BOWL

AN INTRICATELY PLOTTED TALE OF THWARTED LOVE, BETRAYAL & RETRIBUTION

THE GOLDEN BOWL tells the story of an extravagantly rich American widower and his sheltered daughter, both of who marry only to discover that their respective mates are romantically entangled with each other. Set in England and Italy in the early 1900s, THE GOLDEN BOWL is adapted from the celebrated Henry James novel by the award-winning filmmaking team of producer Ismail Merchant, director James Ivory, and screenwriter Ruth Prawer Jhabvala

THE GOLDEN BOWL is Henry James' longest, most elaborate, and most ambitious novel, and in it, his writing reaches new levels of complexity and sophistication. James' themes are timeless and universal, as he artfully explores the problems of love and marriage.

Special thanks to:

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MMTA

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MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 (SDDS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 GOLD (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) VANILLA SKY
6 GOLD (SDDS) KATE & LEOPOLD
7 GOLD (DOLBY) RIDING IN CARS
8 IKAW LAMANG .
9 IKAW LAMANG . .
10 FROM HELL

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1 KAULAYAW
2
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA V GOLD

(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1 IKAW LAMANG .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

starmall Movies

(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1 IKAW LAMANG .
2 FROM HELL
3 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 KAULAYAW

METROPOLIS star

Tel. 850 4285

1 VANILLA SKY
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .
4 KAULAYAW
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

(Makati City) Tel. 7512010 to 13

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 FINAL ANSWER

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.

tel 930.9515

1 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
2 IKAW LAMANG . .
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Spring

(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
A COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 IKAW LAMANG . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 KAULAYAW
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2
3
4 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
5 FROM HELL
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 (SDDS) RIDING IN CARS
9 (DOLBY) VANILLA SKY

Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2 IKAW LAMANG . .

Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 IKAW LAMANG . .
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 (SDDS) RIDING IN CARS
5 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
6 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
7 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 KAULAYAW
9 VANILLA SKY

Commonwealth

tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 KAULAYAW
4 RIDING IN CARS
5 (SDDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
6 ISANG PANAGINIP
7 (DOLBY) IKAW LAMANG . .
8 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1 IKAW LAMANG .
2 KAULAYAW
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
5 (SDDS) VANILLA SKY

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 IKAW LAMANG

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 IKAW LAMANG

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson
Lords
Jennet

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

Prima

(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3 IKAW LAMANG . .

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA

tel 244.4619

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
3 KAULAYAW
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA

tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)
2

Berma

tel 879.2029

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG .

CitiMall

(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . .

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 IKAW LAMANG .
2 IKAW LAMANG .
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 REBULOSYONARYO
2 (DTS) IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 HEARTS IN ATLANTIC

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 REBULOSYONARYO
2 (DOLBY) HEARRTS IN ATLANTIC
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 IKAW LAMANG

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 FINAL ANSWER
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 METRO TOWN

TEL. (045) 9821729 (Tarlac)

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 (DOLBY) VANILLA SKY
4 (DTS) IKAW LAMANG

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
3 KAULAYAW
4 (DTS) IKAW LAMANG . .

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) HEARTS IN ATLANTIC
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 KAULAYAW
5 HUSTLER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 KAULAYAW

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249-2558

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 KAULAYAW

Olivarez Tagaytay

tel (046) 413.0311

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 KAULAYAW

Morales Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2
3 RESERVE

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4008

1 (DTS) IKAW LAMANG . .
2 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . .
3 ISANG PANAGINIP

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 IKAW LAMANG . .
4 THE OTHERS

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) SPY GAME
2 IKAW LAMANG . .
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 (DTS ES) ZOOLANDER

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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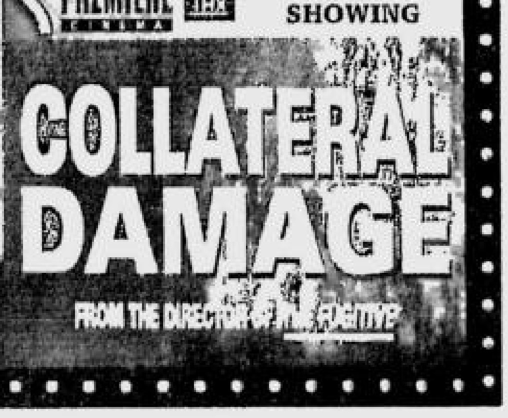
COLLATERAL DAMAGE
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http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

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1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 VANILLA SKY
4 RIDING IN CARS
5 IKAW LAMANG . . .
6 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
7 KATE & LEOPOLD
8 IKAW LAMANG . . .
9 FROM HELL
10 BLACK HAWK DOWN

ERMITA

536-7009 TO 12

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 VANILLA SKY
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .
4 RIDING IN CARS
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

METRO EAST

#682-8103, #682-8193
#682-8199, 682-8280

1 RIDING IN CARS
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 IKAW LAMANG. . .
4 KATE & LEOPOLD
5 FROM HELL
6 IKAW LAMANG. . .
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 VANILLA SKY

NOVALICHES

935-3229 TO 31

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 VANILLA SKY
4 BLACK HAWK DOWN
5 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
6 KATE & LEOPOLD
7 IKAW LAMANG . . .
8 IKAW LAMANG . . .

IMUS

(046) 471-8188

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 VANILLA SKY
4 RIDING IN CARS
5 IKAW LAMANG . . .
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .

BACOLOD

(034) 441-0453 / 0458

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 LORD OF THE RINGS
5 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
6 FINAL ANSWER

ILOILO

(033) 336-9077 / 9078

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 VANILLA SKY
4 AMERICAN ADOBO
5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6 BLACK HAWK DOWN

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	IKAW LANG HANGGANG . . .
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	ISANG PANAGINIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	VANILLA SKY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	RIDING IN CARS w/ BOYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	IKAW LANG HANGGANG . . .
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	2 PISNGI NG PAG IBIG / OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
ODEON	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ODEON-2	KAULAYAW
ROBEN	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	THE SCORE / WOLF GIRL

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
REMAR	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
REMAR-2	HALIK SA AKING LUPA

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON
B	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS
CINEMA-2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	REBULOSYONARYO
CINEMA-2	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
CINEMA-3	MARSHALL DICK
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FROM HELL
CINEMA-6	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-7	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-8	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	RIDING CARS w/ BOYS
CINEMA-12	VANILLA SKY
CINEMA-14	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-15	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-2	RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS
CINEMA-3	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-4	IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-5	VANILLA SKY
CINEMA-6	COLLATERAL DAMAGE

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR

4173868

1 KATE & LEOPOLD
2 RIDING IN CARS
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 VANILLA SKY
5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 BLACK HAWK DOWN
8 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

SM CENTERPOINT

7149522 -7161416

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 RIDING IN CARS
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
6 ISANG PANAGINIP
7 VANILLA SKY
8 BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 KATE & LEOPOLD
10 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 RIDING IN CARS
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 VANILLA SKY
9 IKAW LAMANG . . .
10 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11 KATE & LEOPOLD
12 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1 KATE & LEOPOLD
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 RIDING IN CARS
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 FROM HELL
6 VANILLA SKY
7 IKAW LAMANG . . .
8 BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 THE OTHERS
10 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
11 MARSHALL DICK
12 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6329401

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 VANILLA SKY
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 BLACK HAWK DOWN
5 RIDING IN CARS
6 PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN
7 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8 IKAW LAMANG . . .
9 IKAW LAMANG . . .
10 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
11 ISANG PANAGINIP
12 KATE & LEOPOLD

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1 RIDING IN CARS
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .
4 IKAW LAMANG . . .
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 VANILLA SKY
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
9 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
10 FROM HELL
11 ISANG PANAGINIP
12 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

SM SOUTHMALL

8066088 • 8066782

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 VANILLA SKY
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 IKAW LAMANG . . .
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
7 RIDING IN CARS
8 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
9 ISANG PANAGINIP
10 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

SM CITY CEBU

2313878

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 VANILLA SKY
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 IKAW LAMANG . . .
6 FINAL ANSWER
7 IKAW LAMANG . . .
8 LORD OF THE RINGS

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1 GLASS HOUSE
2 CLOSED
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5 AMERICAN ADOBO
6 LORD OF THE RINGS
7 CLOSED
8 VANILLA SKY

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 KATE & LEOPOLD
3 VANILLA SKY
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 BLACK HAWK DOWN
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294075

1 VANILLA SKY
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .
4 ISANG PANAGINIP

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE

8820984

1 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .
4 ISANG PANAGINIP

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 VANILLA SKY
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5 KAULAYAW
6 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM

18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City

1
2

SOON TO OPEN!
2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

6389781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

Freestyle returns to Suburbia stage

SUBURBIA has lineup several reasons to celebrate weekdays and weekends in Malate's hottest nightspot.

First on the list is MTV Asia's exclusive parties, "Rosebud and Bud Nights," every Saturday with Elements and Escape performing back-to-back.

As an added treat, Budweiser gives away free roses for the first 50 lady guests.

Suburbia's band lineup is another reason to enjoy gimmick nights with officemates and friends.

Start off Monday nights with music from Side A.

Tuesdays are equally exciting as Freestyle returns to Suburbia after a year-long absence. The group is set to delight the audience with their original and most requested tunes.

Shake-off your mid-week blues and check out Side A as they go back onstage on Wednesdays, back-to-back with Pocket Central.

Toy Symphony's own brand of R&B music pervades the air on Thursdays, while Fridays are pumped up with a double serving of the latest chart-topping tunes from Freeverse and First Circle.

Don't fail to catch the special performances of retro band Mulatto on Feb. 12 and Wiseguys on Feb. 13.

Bring your friends and whole family to party every night since Suburbia offers 50 percent off from the regular minimum consumable charge and reduces it to only P200 per person.

For inquiries, call 450-1685 or 86.

No lonely nights . . .

(From page A28)

In his increasingly illustrious career, Brian has worked with Take 6, Christina Aguilera, Shelby Lynn, Nelly Furtado and Alicia Keys. Because of his versatility, he appeals from R&B to pop to hip-hop audiences worldwide.

After performing with Regine, Brian is set to record with Martin Nievera, for whom he will also write songs.

"I can never stop writing," he said. "It's an outlet and at the same time a passion. It allows people to feel what I also feel. It also allows me to be a part of other people's lives when they listen to my songs and appreciate my music."

In "Superhero," Brian sings "Love of My Life," a smooth ballad that will send his female fans aquiver with its hypnotic melody.

He collaborated with other artists in the other tracks in the album. "When Will I See You Again" features Fred Hammond, "I Don't Know Where to Start" has Nate Dogg and the bonus track "Groovin' Tonight" features Nelly and the St. Lunatics.

In "My Kind of Girl," Brian performs with Justin Timberlake of N'Sync.

This is not the first time Brian worked with young artists. He worked with the likes of Mariah Carey and Puff Daddy when they were still singing tyros.

Brian traces his music foundation to an African-American church in Buffalo, New York, where he sang regularly with his brothers. He started playing the piano when he was five and grew up on classical, jazz and gospel music.

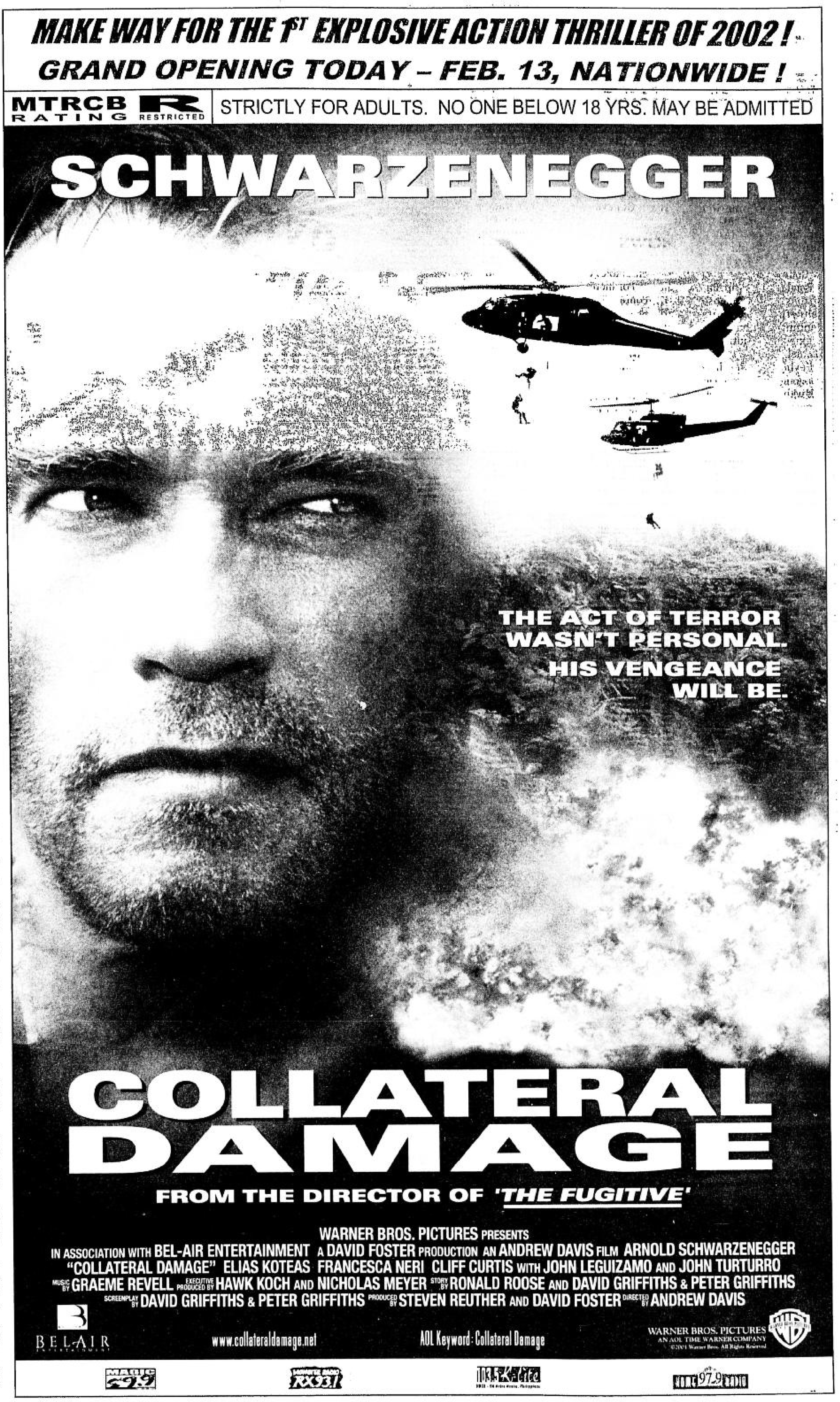
"Anything, from Bach to Beethoven, Mozart, Handel, to the Platters, Nat King Cole, Woody Herman and Gino Vannelli—my parents have a very huge collection," he said. "My brothers loved sophisticated, multi-leveled music."

He himself looks up to music icons such as Billy Caldwell, Stevie Wonder, Michael Sembello, Michael McDonald and Kenny Loggins.

"We can sit and go through every song I recorded and I can tell you, this one is Stevie, right there is Billy Caldwell, this one is Kenny Loggins. They are the people that I try to emulate all my life."

Brian McKnight claimed the Philippines will always be close to his heart, "because Filipinos always make me feel loved."

"It always warms my heart when I see everyone here receives me so warmly. That is hard to ignore."



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GRAND OPENING TODAY – FEB. 13, NATIONWIDE !
MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED STRICTLY FOR ADULTS. NO ONE BELOW 18 YRS. MAY BE ADMITTED
SCHWARZENEGGER
THE ACT OF TERROR WASN'T PERSONAL. HIS VENGEANCE WILL BE.
COLLATERAL DAMAGE
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'THE FUGITIVE'
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH BEL-AIR ENTERTAINMENT A DAVID FOSTER PRODUCTION AN ANDREW DAVIS FILM ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER "COLLATERAL DAMAGE" ELIAS KOTEAS FRANCESCA NERI CLIFF CURTIS WITH JOHN LEGUIZAMO AND JOHN TURTURRO MUSIC BY GRAEME REVELL EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY HAWK KOCH AND NICHOLAS MEYER STORY BY RONALD ROOSE AND DAVID GRIFFITHS & PETER GRIFFITHS SCREENPLAY BY DAVID GRIFFITHS & PETER GRIFFITHS PRODUCED BY STEVEN REUTHER AND DAVID FOSTER DIRECTED BY ANDREW DAVIS
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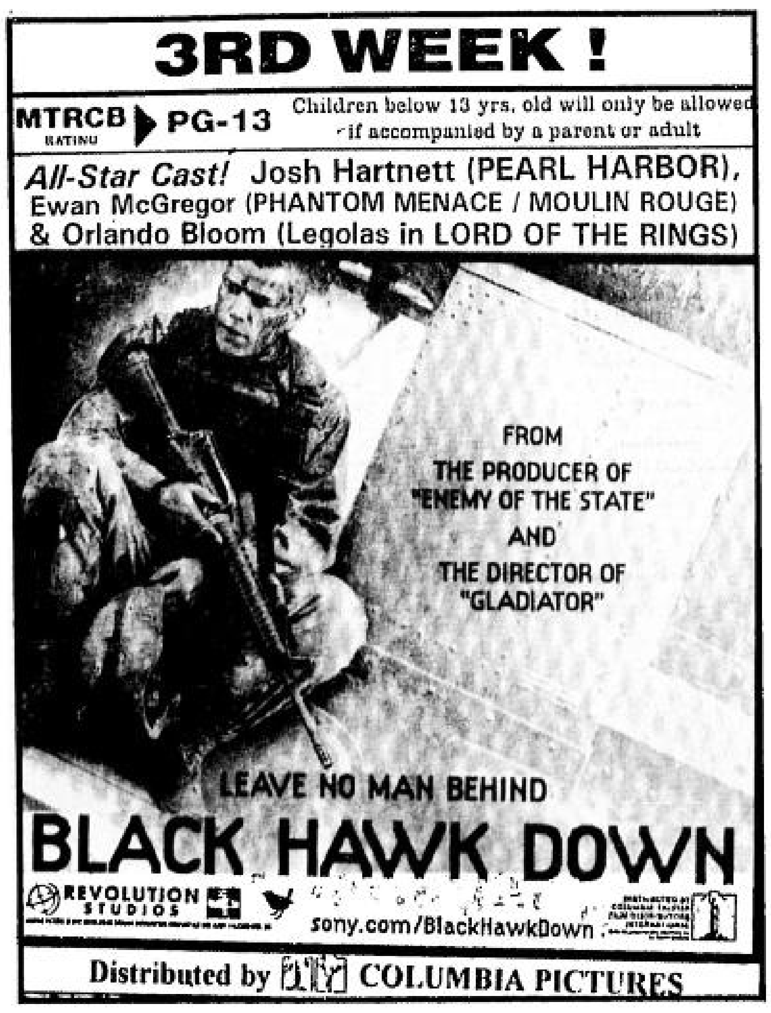
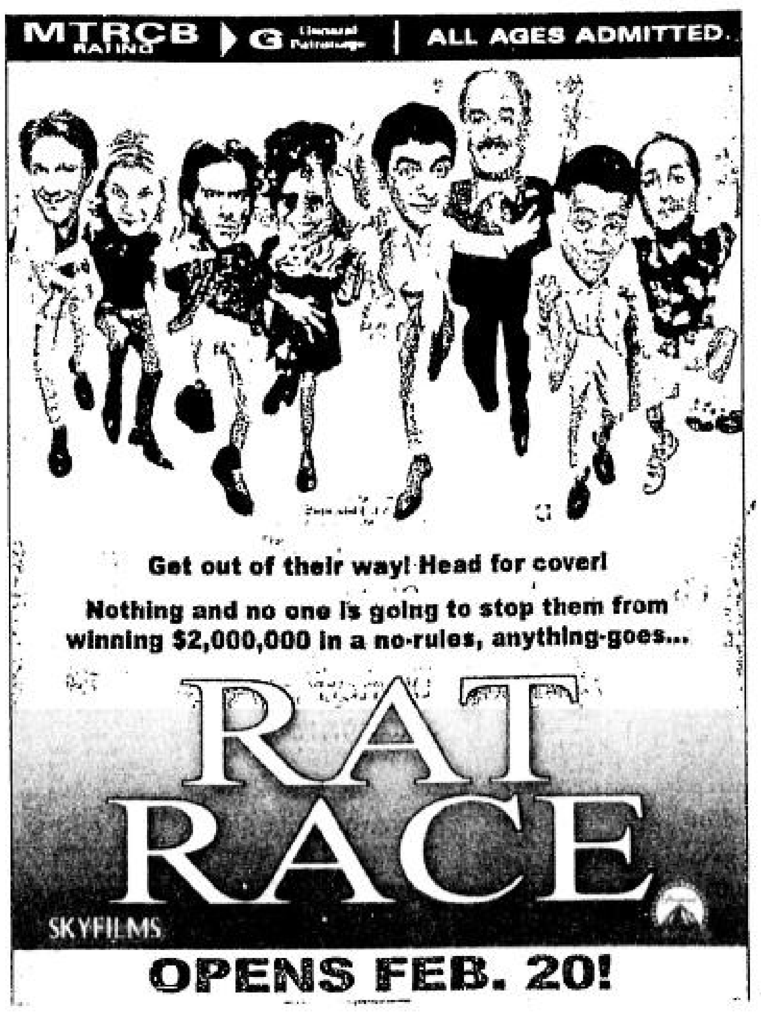


3RD WEEK !
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
All-Star Cast! Josh Hartnett (PEARL HARBOR), Ewan McGregor (PHANTOM MENACE / MOULIN ROUGE) & Orlando Bloom (Legolas in LORD OF THE RINGS)
FROM THE PRODUCER OF "ENEMY OF THE STATE" AND THE DIRECTOR OF "GLADIATOR"
LEAVE NO MAN BEHIND
BLACK HAWK DOWN
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
sony.com/BlackHawkDown
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

Special Valentine Presentation
OPENS TODAY !
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
"'RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS' HAS GOT THE GOODS. DIRECTED SUPERBLY BY PENNY MARSHALL. THE FILM ACCELERATES DREW BARRYMORE'S CAREER, AND PUTS STEVE ZAHN'S INTO OVERDRIVE." GENE SHALIT, THE TODAY SHOW
"WONDERFULLY ACTED, ESPECIALLY BY DREW BARRYMORE." RICHARD SCHICKEL, TIME MAGAZINE
"MS. BARRYMORE'S TOUGH-BUT-TENDER PERFORMANCE IS THE CLEAREST PROOF YET THAT SHE HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO STRETCH HER TALENTS INTO LARGE, COMPLEX PORTRAYALS." STEPHEN HOLDEN, THE NEW YORK TIMES
DREW BARRYMORE
RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS
ridingincars.com
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES



MTRCB RATING G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED.
Get out of their way! Head for cover!
Nothing and no one is going to stop them from winning $2,000,000 in a no-rules, anything-goes...
RAT RACE
SKYFILMS
OPENS FEB. 20!

Mulatto sings love songs at Music Museum

SHOWS

RETRO band Mulatto stars in a Valentine show, "Mulatto sa Puso," Feb. 14, 9 p.m. at Music Museum

The evening's repertoire includes songs like "Through the Fire," "I'll Make Love To You," "Perfect Combination," "Just Once," "Fallin'," "After the Love Has Gone," "Tonight I Give In" and "Betcha By Golly Wow."

Band members are Patrick Huit (drums), Alan Dichoso (bass), Kenneth Ilagan (guitars) and frontliners Michael Bryan, Ryan Regino, Joey Bautista and Jazee Manuel.

Keyboardist Jun Lacanienta, who founded the group in the mid-'90s with Jonjie Tuazon and Francis Abraham, is the musical director.

For ticket information, call Music Museum at 721-0635 or 721-6726.

'Can't Stop Love'

THE PENINSULA Manila celebrates the season of love with Geneva Cruz at The Lobby in "Can't Stop Love," a Valentine's dinner-concert, Feb. 14.

Geneva's repertoire of romantic tunes will include torch songs popularized by Natalie Cole, Aretha Franklin and Gloria Estefan, a medley of Broadway hits and a string of heart-tugging love songs from the '60s to the present.

Geneva will trade her trademark flamboyant outfits for a thorough makeover of elegant designer gowns and ensembles to match the occasion.

For inquiries and reservations, contact The Peninsula Manila at 887-2888, extension 2205.

'Secret Passion'

EDSA Shangri-La's Lobby Lounge sets the stage for a romantic evening with "My Secret Passion," an intimate dinner-concert on Feb. 14, featuring singer and stage actress Pinky Marquez, with tenors Nolyn Cabahug and Jimmy Melendrez as special guests.

According to Edsa Shangri-La's director of food and beverage Erich Kaiserseder, the Lobby Lounge will be transformed into a whimsical secret garden, with plants, flowers, a fountain and candles all over. The stage will be a gazebo draped with blooms.

Guests can expect a pleasant contrast of musical hues and textures as Pinky and her male guests give life to a catalogue of songs made popular by Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman, as well as compositions by Andrew Lloyd Weber and classic Italian songs

For inquiries and reservations, call 633-8888, extensions 12738 to 12739.

CRUZ at The Pen.

MARQUEZ at Shangri-La.

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Feb. 14 - Comedy Valentine
Feb. 15 - Free Concert
Feb. 16 & 17 - Love Fair:
get married · serenade your honey · know your love fortune · facepaint your sweetheart
Mall hours Mon - Thurs 11am - 9 pm
Fri - Sun 11am - 11 pm

THE PENINSULA
MANILA
Can't stop Love
A VALENTINE'S
DINNER-CONCERT WITH
GENEVA CRUZ
AT The Lobby
FEBRUARY 14
BUFFET DINNER
AND SHOW
DINNER:
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
GENEVA CRUZ:
8:30 PM - 10:00 PM
OUTBREAK:
10:00 PM - 12:00 MN
Tickets:
Main Lobby P2,350++ Dinner Buffet & Show
Upper Lobby P2,050++ Dinner Buffet & Show
Gallery P500 nett Show Only
For Inquiries and Reservations, pls. call: 887-2888 & 812-3456, Extension 2717 (Restaurant Reservations)
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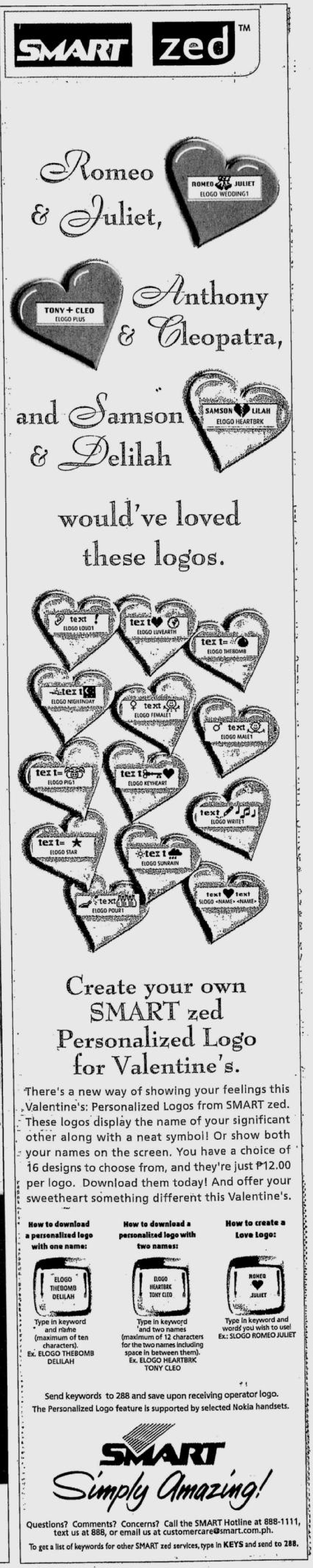

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Romeo & Juliet,
Anthony & Cleopatra,
and Samson & Delilah
would've loved these logos.

Create your own SMART zed Personalized Logo for Valentine's.
There's a new way of showing your feelings this Valentine's: Personalized Logos from SMART zed. These logos display the name of your significant other along with a neat symbol! Or show both your names on the screen. You have a choice of 16 designs to choose from, and they're just ₱12.00 per logo. Download them today! And offer your sweetheart something different this Valentine's.
How to download a personalized logo with one name:
Type in keyword and name (maximum of ten characters). Ex. ELOGO THEBOMB DELILAH
How to download a personalized logo with two names:
Type in keyword and two names (maximum of 12 characters for the two names including space in between them). Ex. ELOGO HEARTBRK TONY CLEO
How to create a Love Logo:
Type in keyword and words you wish to use! Ex.: SLOGO ROMEO JULIET
Send keywords to 288 and save upon receiving operator logo.
The Personalized Logo feature is supported by selected Nokia handsets.
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Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, text us at 888, or email us at customercare@smart.com.ph.
To get a list of keywords for other SMART zed services, type in KEYS and send to 288.

Regine comes full circle

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

REGINE Velasquez got her start in entertainment by joining talent contests. It was after she topped the "Bagong Kampeon" singing tilt that she got offers to sing professionally. Since then, she has become a big singing star, with flourishing side-careers on TV and in the movies.

That's why, when she was tapped to host the local version of British television's popular "Star for A Night" weekly talent competition, Regine accepted with pleasure. To her, hosting the show was like coming full circle: How, it's her turn to help give other new talents a break.

Unlike other talent shows that merely discover outstanding new singers, "Star for A Night" helps them polish their acts by showcasing them with the proper coaching, costuming, and even back-up singers.

The idea is to show that the new talents have what it takes to make it as professional entertainers.

We hope that, aside from hosting the showcase for new talents, Regine will go out of her way to give the contestants pointers on how to develop their talents and watch out for the pitfalls that await them in show business.

Since she's been through it all, Regine can give good, practical advice that will improve the new talents' chances in the biz, on topics like how to "package" themselves, how to pick a good manager, and how to objectively assess their strengths and weaknesses.

That way, they needn't be Stars for (only) a Night, but can become permanent members of the local entertainment industry.

Comedy of quiz-show errors

QUIZMASTER: *Sino ang dinivorce ni* **Lisa Marie Presley**?

Contestant: **Elvis Presley**!

(Lisa Marie divorced her own father? No, **Michael Jackson**.)

***

Quizmaster: *Anong D ang ginagamit na* title **para kay** Sumakwel?

Contestant: Duke!

(Duke Sumakwel? **Hindi yata bagay**!)

***

Quizmaster: *Sino ang sumulat ng nobelang pinamagatang* "Wuthering Heights?

Contestant: **Ernest Hemingway**!

(No, **Emily Bronte**!)

***

Quizmaster: *Ilang buwan meron ang* Earth?

Contestant: 12!

(No, only one—the moon!)

***

Quizmaster: *Ano ang* capital *ng* New Zealand??

Contestant: Zurich!

(zo zorry!)

***

Quizmaster: *Ano'ng ilog ang matatagpuan malapit sa* White House?

Contestant: Ilog Pasig!

(No, the Potomac River! Malacañang Palace is not the White House.)

***

Quizmaster: *Ang* duchess *ay asawa ng ano?*

Contestant: King!

(No, duke!)

Joemari has no Feb. 14 show but he has a 3-hour TV special

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

FOR the past two years, **Jose Mari Chan** was not seen in any live Valentine's Day concerts, but he performed in well-received shows in the United States.

This time, although he does not have a Valentine concert again, he has a TV special, "A Heart's Journey," inspired by his latest album, with the same title, from Universal Records.

The three-hour special, taped in scenic Tagaytay Highlands, will air at 9 p.m. on Feb. 16 on RPN 9. It is produced by Ultimate Entertainment.

"I'd like to believe the MTV is the progeny of the TV specials," he says. "Before today's generation started appreciating the MTVs of local and foreign artists, TV specials were the trend from the '60s to the '80s."

He notes that even American TV exported award-winning TV specials in the '60s featuring **Barbra Streisand, Andy Williams, Burt Bacharach**, The Carpenters, **Julie Andrews, Liza Minnelli** and many others.

Performing as Joemari's guests in "A Heart's Journey" are **Verni Varga, Janet Basco, Antoinette Taus, Aliya Parcs** and The Company.

Joemari would have wanted his daughter Lisa to also perform in the TV special but Lisa was still in her honeymoon when the special was taped.

Freddie Santos directed the special.

In his 35 years in the industry, Joemari has starred in 11 TV musical specials.

CHAN. Eleven TV specials in 35 years.

'One 2 One'

AFTER conquering the Bonifacio Global City in his successful New Year's Eve concert, where more than 30,000 people came to watch, **Gary Valenciano** returns to familiar territory. This time, the 2001 TOYM awardee for contemporary music will attempt to fill up the huge Tent at The Fort for his two-night Valentine concert, "One 2 One," Feb. 14 and 15.

The show will be a far cry from Gary's usual high-energy performances. He will be laid-back as he sings romantic songs by **Barry Manilow**, the Carpenters, Chicago and cuts from his latest album, "Revive," from Universal Records.

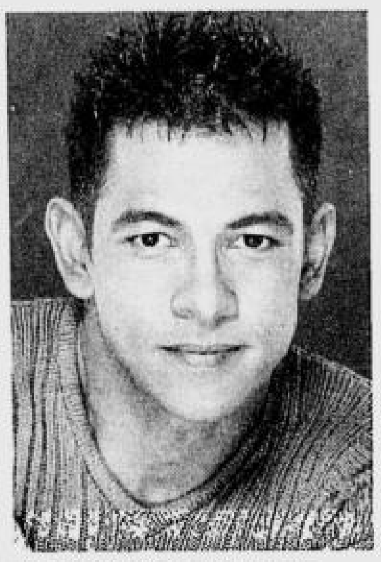
Joining him are **Kyla, May Ann Casal-Soriano, Melissa Fontano**, The Powerplay Band and inspirational diva **Jamie Rivera**. Musical director is **Mon Faustino**.

Upcoming Genesis artist **Pam G** opens the concert.

Each night, concert sponsor Sennheiser will raffle off two Gary V limited edition microphones.

Gary holds the distinction of being the first artist to have his name stamped on Sennheiser's world-class quality microphones.

Next month, Sennheiser will fly Gary and his band to Frankfurt, Germany to perform in the world's biggest music trade fair, the Frankfurt Music Messe.



VALENCIANO. Returns to familiar territory

VENERACION. Singing and acting

Comedy and music club

LAST night, director **Bert de Leon** opened a comedy and music club called Live Station at 44 West Avenue in Quezon City.

Bert, who also owns Suburbia, says he is an industrial partner in Live Station.

Sharon Cuneta, Sen. **Tito Sotto, Vic Sotto** and **Joey de Leon** cut the ceremonial ribbon.

On a roll

YNEZ Veneracion has been enjoying her newfound career as a singer. Since she launched her debut album from Dyna Music last year, Ynez has been on a roll performing in bar, radio and mall tours, provincial gigs and on TV.

First single off the album was "Bakit Ikaw Pa Rin," penned by **Larry Hermoso**. Now enjoying airplay is the second single, "Nakaw na Pag-ibig," originally recorded by **Claire de la Fuente**.

Ynez will do a Valentine show tomorrow at Southern Bulls on Timog Avenue in Quezon City. Performing with her is the upcoming all-male quartet Boyztown, composed of **Michael Pamular, John Paul Dizon, PM Belen** and **Noel Orosco**.

Ynez says she is now more confident when she performs live.

"I used to have jitters because in live performing there are no second takes," she says. "But now I've got the feel of it. I know how to handle an audience, whether in the provinces, in a bar or a mall."

Ynez doesn't have to give up acting when she has to promote her album. She still appears in guest stints on TV dramas, which help hone her acting. After all, she has proven her acting mettle in such movies as **Maryo J. de los Reyes**' "Ang Paraiso ni Efren," **Joel Lamangan**'s "Abandonada" and **Gil Portes**' "Gatas."

Ynez, whose show biz career is managed by **Manny Valera**, will soon start a new movie, "Nine Mornings," with **Piolo Pascual** and **Donita Rose**, directed by **Joey Javier Reyes** for Star Cinema.

"I enjoy both singing and acting," Ynez says. "Singing has helped change my image as a bold star. Now, people know that I can also sing."

Romantic interlude with Basil at Westin

THIS VALENTINE'S Day, have a romantic interlude with Basil Valdez in a dinner-show, "Basil Valdez . . . Ngayon," Feb. 14 at Westin Philippine Plaza.

Be enthralled by his hits that have redefined OPM love songs.

Musical director is Ryan Cayabyab.

Dinner is at 7 p.m. Show starts at 9 p.m.

Dinner and show tickets at P2,400 and P2,800. For the show only, tickets are at P1,100. Call TicketWorld at 891-5610.

"Basil Valdez . . . Ngayon" is a production of Maxi-Media International.

VALDEZ at Westin.

'Jammin' with Bert'

TIMELESS balladeer Bert Nievera topbills this month's lineup of "Jammin' at Country Waffles" at Eastwood City Walk in Libis, Quezon City.

Nievera will take centerstage in a Valentine dinner-show, Feb. 14 and 15, with Dessa and pianist Carmen Echevarria as special guests.

Also featured in "Jammin' at Country Waffles" at Eastwood this month are upcoming bands Crosswave (Wednesday), Acoustic and Heart Strings (Thursdays), Acoustic Jive (Fridays) and Folkus and Snare (Saturdays).

Diners can look forward to a night of guitar, flute and percussion with the acoustic trio of Nobel Queaño, Rodel Vidal and Louie Boogie in "Joey's Acoustic Night," Feb. 21.

The show is also scheduled at Country Waffles branch in Rockwell, Feb. 28.

For reservation, call 421-3331 to 36.

NIEVERA at Eastwood City.

Learn Chinese:

"I hate this movie."

Lao zi sho.

"The Chinese Film Fest shows great award-winning movies."

Yu sy no lao zi sho.

"What are you waiting for?"

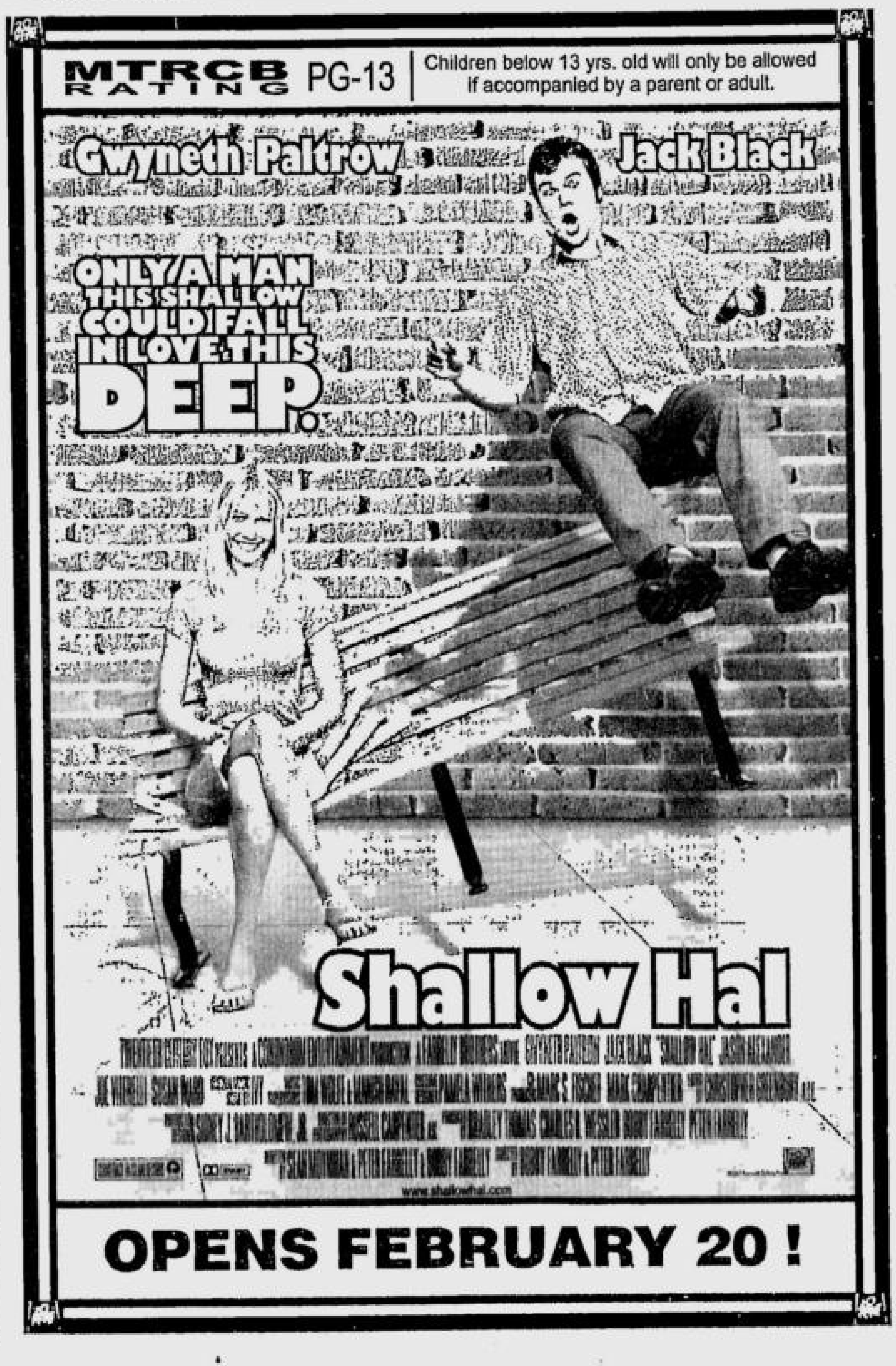
Wai yu wei ting?

"Come to Art Film at Greenbelt 1 this Chinese New Year, Feb. 13 to Feb. 26."

Yu kum, kei?

Art Film GREENBELT 1

AYALA CINEMAS



MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

OPENS FEBRUARY 20 !

Gwyneth Paltrow
Jack Black
ONLY A MAN THIS SHALLOW COULD FALL IN LOVE THIS DEEP.
Shallow Hal

Juice and G-Steps at Arkdia

JUICE and G-Steps will lead dating couples to the dance floor with their music on Valentine night, Feb. 14 at Arkdia on Remedios st., Malate, Manila.

Juice is the hip, pop-R&B band, with Nathalynn and Ray Olaer as vocalists.

John Mark and Melody frontline G-Steps. Show starts 9 p.m.

For reservations, call 404-1087 or 400-9974.

TONIGHT ONLY! SM Megamall Cinema 6

Alejandro Iñarritu's
AMORES PERROS
International Critic's Prize, Cannes 2000
Grand Prize, Tokyo Film Festival 2001
Best Director, AFI Festival 2001
ONLY ON
February 13, 6:30 PM
SM MEGAMALL

PELIKULA AT
LIPUNAN
2002

"The first international classic of the new decade!"
-New York Times
"An amazing cross-stitch of scenes! Truly a cinematic event!"
-Wall Street Journal
"Amores Perros is an international classic!"
-Newsweek
"A gritty look at lives and domestic affairs. A breakthrough film."
-Time

TODAY SKYFILMS
for inquiries pls call 723 4058

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

KATE & LEOPOLD - GP 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS - P 13 10:40, 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 9:30	COLLATERAL DAMAGE - R 18 11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10
IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON - GP 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	VANILLA SKY - R 18 1:05, 3:50, 6:35, 9:30	COLLATERAL DAMAGE - R 18 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 VANILLA SKY
R 18

CINEMA 2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
R 18

Matinee: P80.00 - Screenings before 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday (Free Seating).
Reserved Seating: P120.00 - After 5:00pm; Saturday, Sunday, Holidays.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 721-6573

MUSIC MUSEUM
February 14 "MULLATO SA PUSO" Mullato & Appaloosa
P500 - ORCH./ P350 BAL. 9:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

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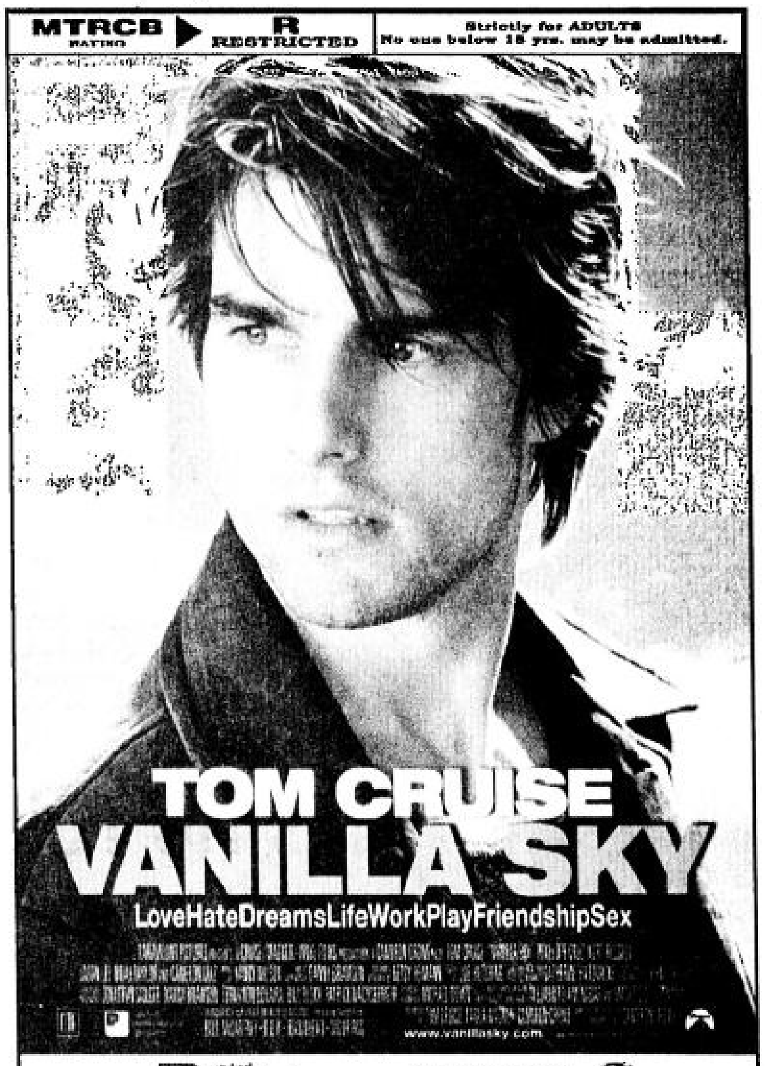
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.



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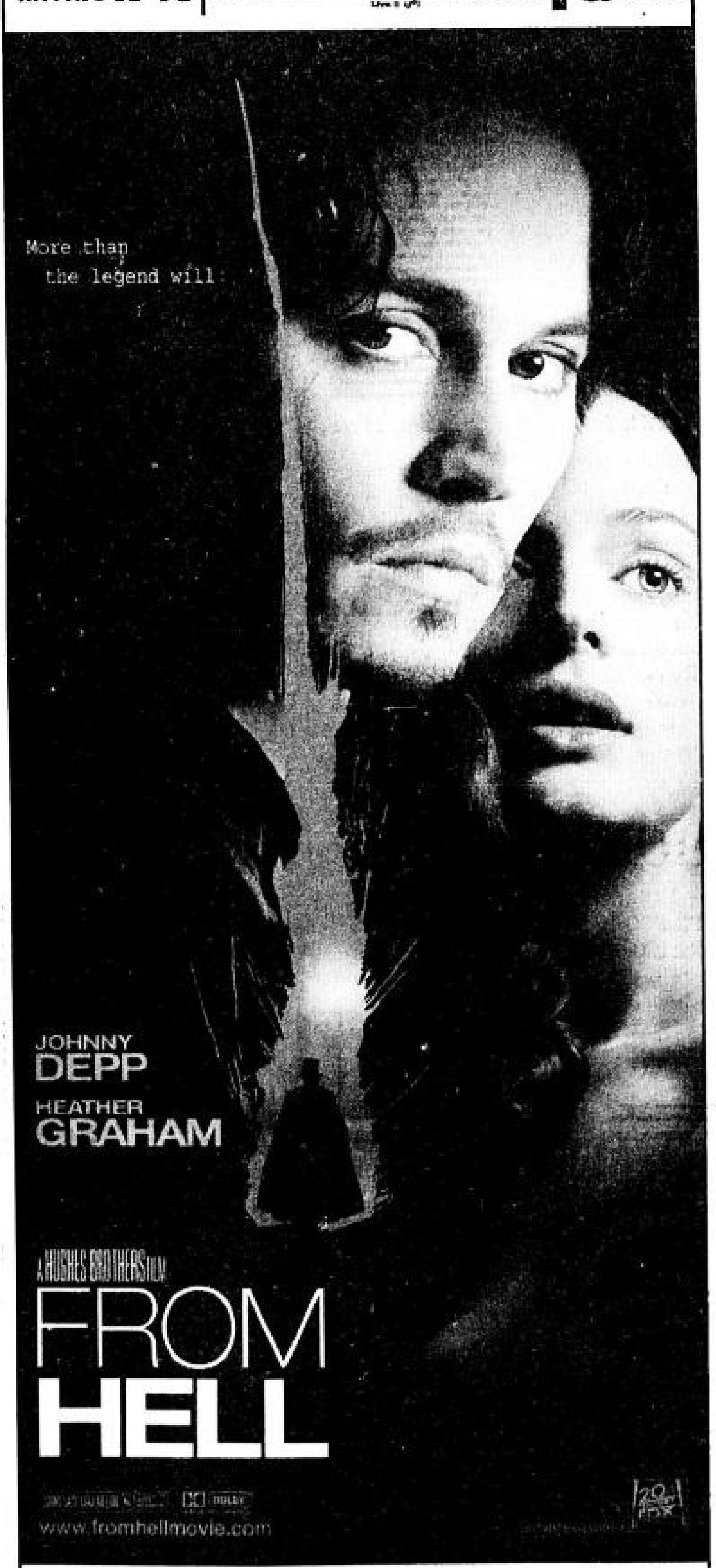

NOW SHOWING

OPENING TODAY! SM Megamall Cinema 6

SHOWING TODAY

February 13	
11am	MFI Shorts
1:30pm	Nick Deocampo's Ynang Bayan
4pm	Marilou Abaya's Brutal w/ Sari Dalena's Memories of a Forgotten War
6:30pm	Opening Film: Alejandro Iñarritu's Amores Perros

ika-9
PELIKULA
LIPUNAN
2002

TOMORROW NIGHT:
February 14, 2002
Micheal Rymer's
love satire
PERFUME
at 9pm, SM Megamall
Cinema 6

TODAY SKYFILMS
for inquiries pls call 723 4058

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THE KING & QUEEN OF HEARTS
TOGETHER AT LAST
IN THE MOST ROMANTIC DATE-MOVIE
THIS VALENTINE'S!

RICHARD GOMEZ and REGINE VELASQUEZ

Sa pag-ibig
lahat ay maganda,
lahat may kabuluhan.
A film by Yam Laranas
Ikaw Lamang
Hanggang Ngayon

Starring CANDY PANGILINAN TANYA GARCIA
Featuring the theme song "HANGGANG NGAYON" Music & Lyrics by Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez, from the album "A BETTER MAN"
directed by
YAM LARANAS
Rexona Nestlé VIVA FILMS A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
OPENS TODAY

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

MCKNIGHT with shining ardor. Brian sings for people who love love songs. EDWIN BACASMAS

No lonely nights in Manila for Brian McKnight

By Leah Salterio

BRIAN McKnight does not get homesick at all whenever he is in Manila.

"It's the closest thing to being in America," the popular R&B singer told the INQUIRER in an exclusive phone interview from Tampa, Florida, referring to his Manila visits and the warm reception he gets here every single time.

"When you get that kind of reception, you really want to come back," he said, adding that he doesn't pass up the opportunity to go to Manila every time it comes up.

This time, he is back for a Valentine show, "Two for the Knight," with Regine Velasquez, tonight and tomorrow night at Araneta Coliseum.

Brian said he would not think twice about performing in Manila even when it's not Valentine. The last time Brian was in town was last September when he launched his latest album, "Superhero," distributed locally by MCA Universal.

"My show works on any day of the year," he said. "My show is for people with a genuine love for love songs. It's for everybody."

He said he would sing as many of his love songs as he could in the Big Dome concert.

"It will be a five-hour show if the audience wants to hear me sing all of my songs," he said.

"But it'll be great to perform with Regine," he added. "She has a fantastic voice. With our voices together, we should do well vocally."

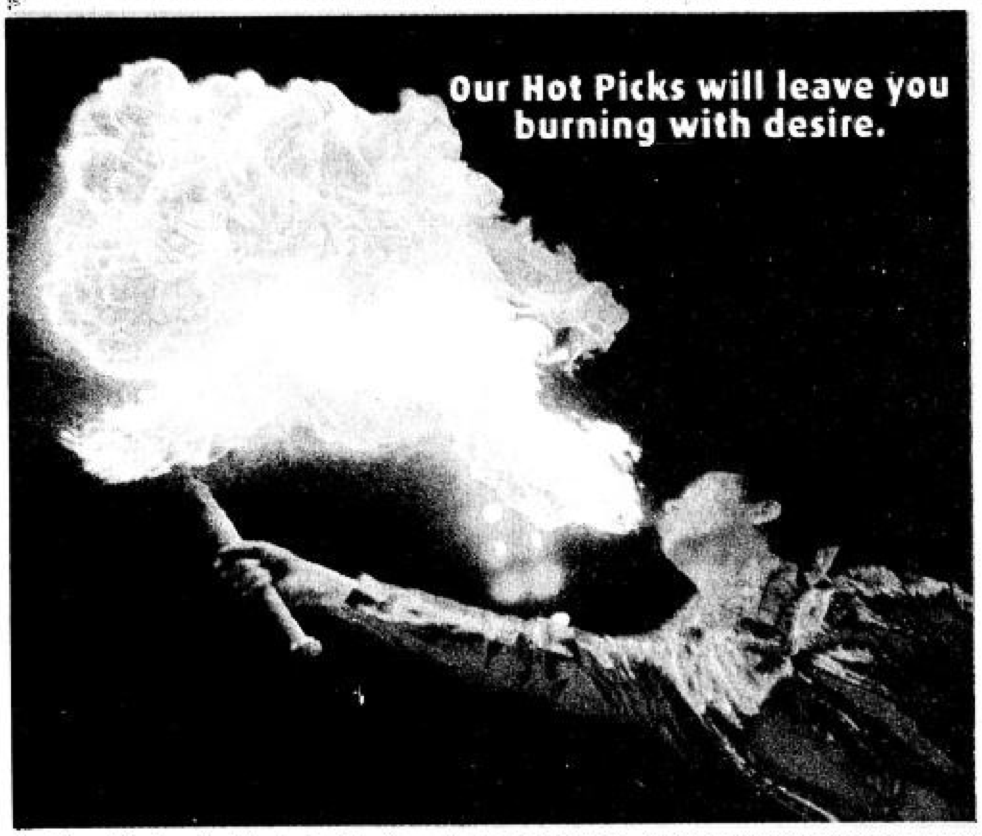
During this phone interview, Brian was taking a break from a 40-city concert tour of the United States and he was on the last leg of the dizzying juggernaut.

"I do four shows a week but there's no way that I get tired from performing," he said. "It doesn't matter how tired I am because it goes away when I go up on stage and see my audience. They always make me feel energized."

Brian has been a hitmaker since his 1992 recording debut, which spawned the hit single "One Last Cry."

Since that platinum album, his succeeding albums have become multi-platinum, producing more than a dozen hit singles, including "Back at One," "6, 8, 12" and "You Should Be Mine."

NO LONELY/ A24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Scorch yourself with the hottest, most requested logos, ring tones and picture messages from the week of February 6 to 11. Download today!

Top ten logos:

1 LOGO BABE3
2 LOGO BABY2
3 LOGO BLONDIE1
4 LOGO CATMOUSE
5 LOGO DOGGIE
6 LOGO EYESONLY
7 LOGO KID1
8 LOGO PAWS2
9 LOGO UNIVERSE
10 LOGO VIP

New logos:

LOGO EAGLEPIN
LOGO GOODLUCKCHI
LOGO HEARTS3
LOGO HORSES4
LOGO HORSEYEAR
LOGO ILOVEYOU2
LOGO ILOVEYOUCHI
LOGO INVERTEDHEARTS
LOGO SUPORTAHAN
LOGO TAKECARE1

Top ten picture messages:

PIC EC-619
PIC EC-620
PIC EC-621
PIC EC-622
PIC EC-629
PIC EC-630
PIC EC-631
PIC EC-632
PIC EC-633
PIC EC-634

New ring tones:

Muntik Na Kitang Minahal	The Company/Carol Banawa	TONE MUNTIKNA
Sorry	Aiza Seguerra	TONE SORRY
Ako'y Pinoy	Florante	TONE AKOYPINOY
Handog	Florante	TONE HANDOG
Abakada	Florante	TONE ABAKADA
Pakisabi Na Lang	The Company/Aiza Seguerra	TONE PAKISABINA
Johnny B	The Hooters	TONE JOHNNYB
Sana	Florante	TONE SANA
Kumusta Mga Kaibigan	Maria Cafra	TONE KAMUSTA
It's Raining Men	Geri Halliwell	TONE RAININMEN

Top ten ring tones:

1	Waiting For Tonight	Jennifer Lopez	TONE WAITING4
2	Might Be You	Stephen Bishop	TONE MYTBU
3	Kiss Me	Six Pence None The Richer	TONE KISSME
4	I Don't Want To Miss A Thing	Aerosmith	TONE MISATING
5	Pagdating Ng Panahon	Aiza Seguerra	TONE PAGDATING
6	Crush Ng Bayan	Chris Villonco	TONE CRUSHING
7	Mr. Love	South Border	TONE MRLOVE
8	Di Ba't Ikaw	Jessa Zaragosa	TONE DIBATIKAW
9	Mr. Kupido	Rachel Alejandro	TONE MRKUPIDO
10	Be My Lady	Martin Nievera	TONE BMYLADY

How to get a logo, picture message or ring tone:

1 Type in KEYWORD. Ex. LOGO EAGLEPIN, TONE SANA or PIC EC-619
2 Send to 288.
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2 Send to 288.
3 Await for different available tests for Love.

TST L
288
The available tests for Love are: L' How ready are you for a relationship?

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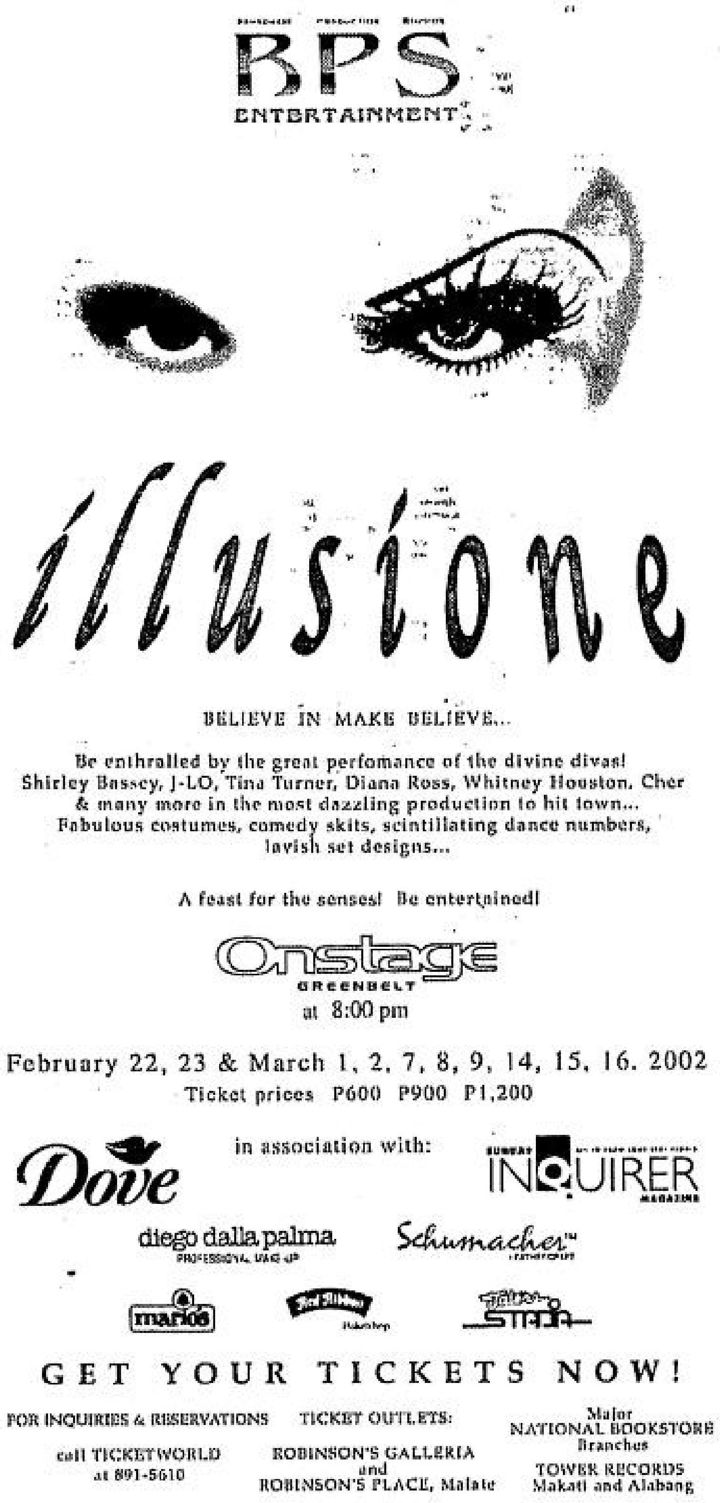
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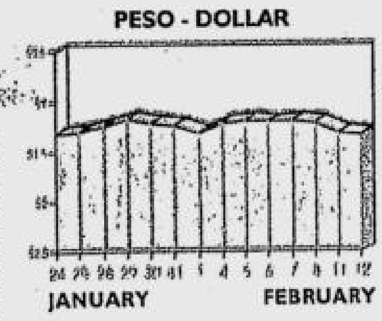

GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

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As of 5 p.m., Feb. 12, 2002

¥133.62 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 12, 2002

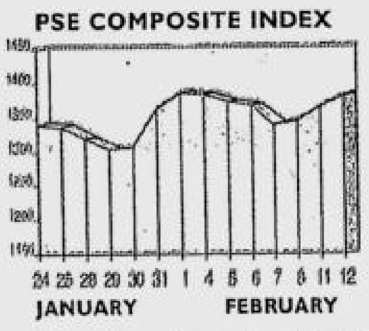
GOLD: $301.75/302.75
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 11, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Rate cut hopes lift stocks

STOCKS extended their gains yesterday as local investors took further advantage of last week's correction to accumulate selected large-caps, traders said.

They noted that rate-sensitive property stocks again posted solid gains following a further decline in benchmark 91-day treasury bill rates and expectations for a further cut in the central bank's overnight rates this week.



(See stock market report on Page B6)

The bank's policy-setting monetary board is set to meet on Thursday.

The main index closed up 16.45 points, or 1.2 percent, at 1,382.41 points. Turnover rose to P465.01 million from P371.80 million on Monday.

"After last week's correction we are seeing some local investors coming in to bargain-hunt . . . on the foreign side it has been fairly quiet in the past

RATE/ B2

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MACAPAGAL administration is planning to censure commercial banks for keeping lending rates at usurious levels in the face of determined efforts by government agencies to pull down interest rates.

A source from the Monetary Board, the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, said a survey made in December last year confirmed that efforts to bring down key government rates to new lows have not led to a parallel cut in lending rates by banks to corporate and retail borrowers.

The survey was stratified or divided among specific borrower groups to clearly compare the actual interest rates paid by blue chip companies, export firms and small- and medium-sized enterprises.

The private sector had long been grumbling about the usurious rates being charged by banks even though key interest rates have gone down substantially. Businessmen complained that the government's efforts to bring down interest rates would be useless if they are not reflected in the loan rates charged by banks.

The Monetary Board source said the government and the BSP were prepared to "slam" the banks for their refusal to cut the spreads between their lending rates and their cost of funds to reflect the decline in interest rates over the past few months.

But while the government and the BSP have nothing but moral suasion in their arsenal as they could not compel banks to lend at a fixed or maximum rate, the source said the government has something up its sleeves that would push banks to sacrifice some of their fat margins.

The government and the BSP have worked together to cut interest rates by more than 10 times since last year with the 91-day treasury bill rate—the benchmark for bank lending rates—sliding 7.278 percent, its lowest since January 1987.

BSP data showed that the average lending rates of commercial banks ranged from 10.8 percent to 12.3 percent for prime clients with retail lenders charged more than 15 percent. This gives banks a hefty spread of 5 to 14 percentage points as savings deposit rates range from one percent to 7.5 percent.

Abetted by a benign inflation rate, the government has been able to achieve its goal of pulling down interest rates in order to give more breathing room to distressed corporations from their high interest expenses and stimulate spending on white line items and other capital goods by consumers and businesses.

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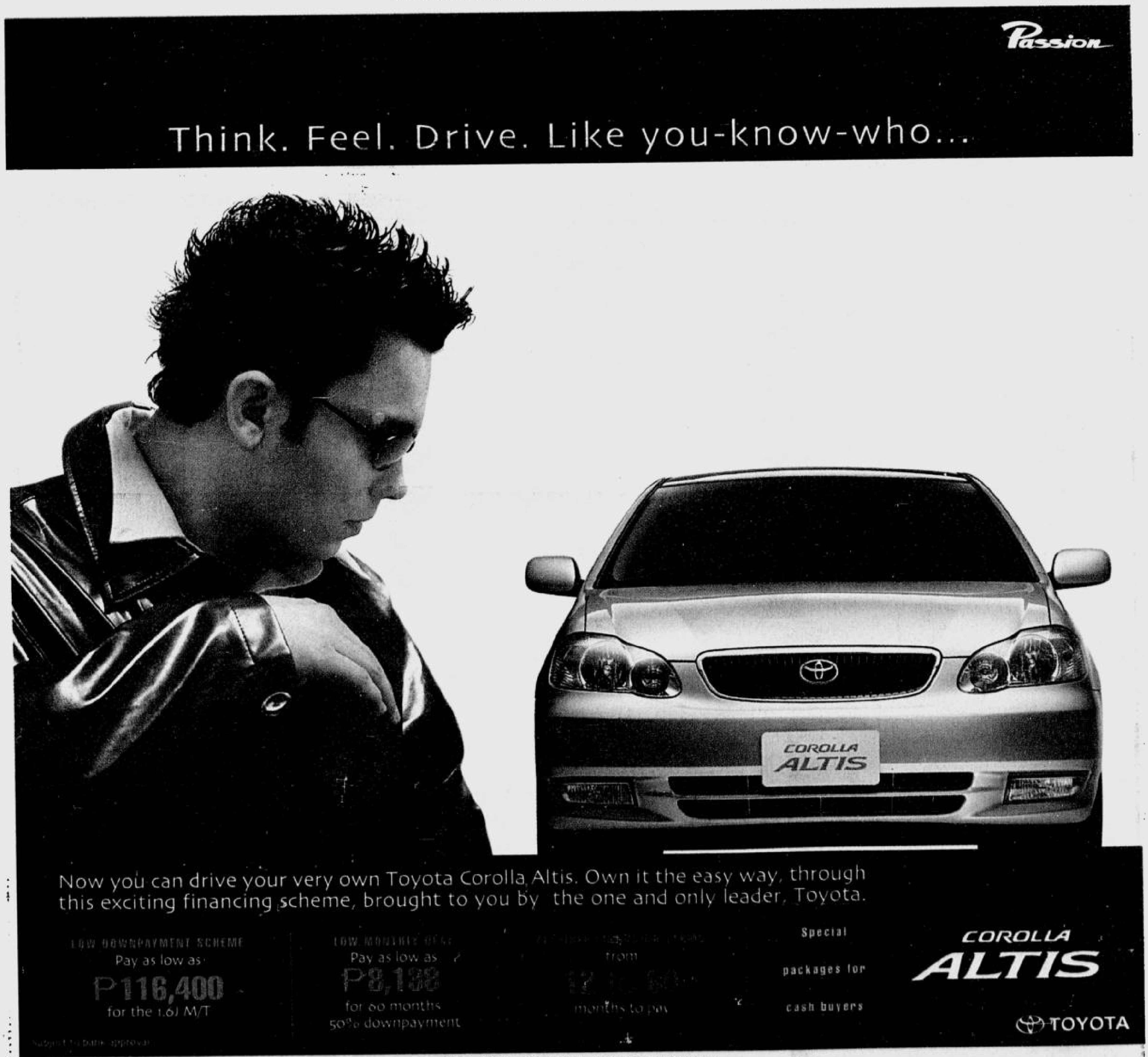
YEAR OF THE HORSE
Filipino-Chinese students hold dragon puppets and dance on the trading floor of the Philippine Stock Exchange in Manila to welcome the Year of the Horse on Feb. 12.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Prof. Emmanuel A. Leyco Program Director, AIM Jaime V. Ongpin Professor in Public Finance. He has worked intensively in the healthcare sector as a public finance specialist for Asian Development Bank - funded projects of DOH. He was consultant on credit issues in municipal bond financing and capital market development issues; chief legislative analyst for health care financing of New York City; and bond rating specialist for Standard and Poor's in the U.S. He has written numerous articles and papers on health care and financing issues.

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Rate cut hopes lift stocks

From page B1

few weeks," United Coconut Planters Bank Trust fund manager Vanessa Lim said.

Traders said a turnaround on Wall Street after a recent five-day correction had also helped underpin the local market's gains.

Citisecurities Online vice president for sales Juanis Barredo said local investors had taken heart from the modest scale of last week's correction to selectively accumulate again.

The market tracked down for four consecutive days last week before rebounding on Friday, continuing its upward momentum on Monday.

"It was a moderate correction, a healthy correction and that has encouraged further accumulation," Barredo said.

He expected the market to continue its upside momentum with 1,400 points providing immediate near-term resistance.

"If that is broken, it is very likely we can go above 1,480 points."

After Monday's focus on telecom companies, investors switched their attention to properties and some selected financials as well as continuing to buy up consumer sector favorite San Miguel Corp. *Reuters, AFP*

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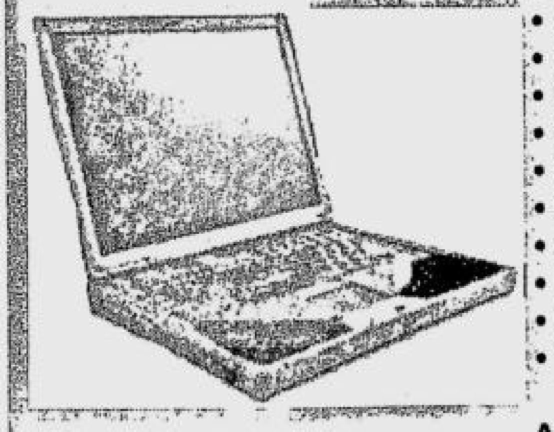

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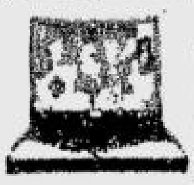

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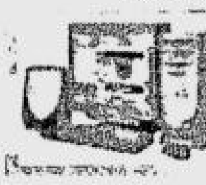

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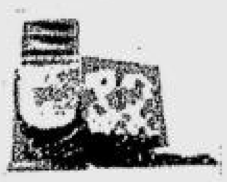

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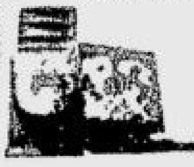

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A Valentine story

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

TOMORROW evening, Valentine's Day, the Arroyos of Malacañang are trooping to North Forbes to stage a traditional *pamanhikan*, the local ritual of formally asking for the bride's hand.

North Forbes is of course where Angela Montenegro, the likely addition to the Arroyo family, lives.

Just in case you were born only yesterday, Angela is the 28-year-old daughter of ex-PCCI president Herman Montenegro with Charito Arroyo who has been romantically linked to President Macapagal-Arroyo's eldest son, Mickey, 33, the Pampanga vice governor.

Charito Arroyo shares the same surname as the First Gentleman, Mike, because they are first cousins, having both originated from Negros.

According to the family grapevine, despite the Montenegros being no strangers to the Arroyos—Mickey has lately become a frequent visitor and his PSG entourage no longer surprises the Forbes neighborhood—mother Charito nevertheless decided to spruce up the house for the occasion.

Still, the prospects of a TV coverage—apparently the Malacañang in-house crew will be coming along with the President as well—has been unsettling the mother of the bride.

This, plus the strain of two weddings in a span of six months (the Montenegros' only son, Greg, was married last month to GMA-7 actress Ana Roces), has cost Charito to lose a few pounds as well, not an unwelcome development at all.

A June 23 wedding, on the eve of the feast of San Juan de Labrador, reportedly Mickey's feast day as well, and two receptions, one in Pampanga and one in Malacañang, have been tentatively agreed upon by the two families even before tomorrow's *pamanhikan*.

The Pampanga wedding and reception, incidentally on a Sunday morning, are being held in deference to Mickey's constituents; the more private evening reception in the Palace, in deference to the bride's wishes.

This early, the two separate receptions already present logistical challenge to the wedding planners, and on the stamina of the young couple, who are being planned to be helicoptered back to Malacañang for the evening reception.

Instead of Pampanga, the President has agreed to allow, make that prevailed on, the prospective couple to make Malacañang Palace their temporary home, so as to make the transition to becoming a wife of a provincial politician for the London-school bride as seamless as possible.

To prevent the rivalry between GMA-7 and ABS-CBN from being further stoked and Malacañang getting caught in the crossfire, President Macapagal-Arroyo has also decided that no TV network will have any exclusive rights to the wedding ceremony.

The initial information we received was that Radio-TV Malacañang would instead provide the television footage to the networks.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

TAIWANESE INVESTORS

Gatchalian sells Fort Ilocandia

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GATCHALIAN family, owner of listed hotelier Waterfront Philippines Inc., has sold its controlling stake in Fort Ilocandia Resort Hotel in Ilocos Norte to Jimea International Casinos, a consortium of Taiwanese gaming firm operators.

WPI vice president for hotel sales Rexlon Gatchalian told reporters that the group had divested much of its stake in Fort Ilocandia and had likewise given up management control of the hotel to the Taiwanese consortium.

He said WPI would focus on its three remaining hotel properties—Waterfront Cebu City, Waterfront Mactan and the Insular Hotel Davao.

It was earlier reported that WPI would spend about P150 million to spruce up its three hotel properties in Cebu and Davao in order to take advantage of improving tourism prospects for the country.

WPI was originally planning to take over as much as 70 percent of Fort Ilocandia but dropped such bid at the height of the Philippine-Taiwan air row, Gatchalian said. As the bulk of tourists coming to Fort Ilocandia came from Taiwan, he said the inclusion of Fort Ilocandia at that time would have dragged down WPI's bottom line.

FORT Ilocandia Resort Hotel

As such, WPI cancelled its 54-percent equity investment in affiliate Polar Peak Philippines Inc., the owner and operator of the hotel, due to poor business prospects for this investment. In September 2000, the hotel was placed on the auction block.

"There are no plans to revive the Fort Ilocandia deal," he said.

Gatchalian said part of the group's stake had been sold to the consortium but did not say the amount of the deal. To date, however, he said the group was still left with some minority stake in the hotel.

Fort Ilocandia, which has a Spanish colonial architecture, has 267 rooms, a beach front and a golf course. It is located at the northwestern tip of Luzon in the province of Ilocos Norte. The five-building complex stands on 77 hectares of land, characterized by sand dunes and nine kilometers of sandy beaches.

WPI earlier increased its authorized capital stock from P2 billion to P5 billion for the acquisition of Davao Insular and Fort Ilocandia.

UCPB beefs up asset management unit

By Elena R. Torrijos

UNITED Coconut Planters Bank has expanded its asset management unit into a full-scale division tasked to manage and dispose of real estate acquired in the settlement of bad loans, bank chair and chief executive Jeronimo Kilayko said in a statement.

The newly formed asset management group has been placed under the supervision of UCPB executive vice president Andrew Alcid, who was part of a team that successfully repackaged and sold multibillion-dollar real estate assets on behalf of Citibank N.A. at the height of the savings and loan crisis in the United States from the late 1980s to the early 1990s.

"Asian banks today are grappling with the same problems that the US banks faced then. We are basically adopting what we learned from that experience: take over the collateral securing the non-performing loans, improve the value of the assets, then when the opportune time comes, resell them at a higher value," Alcid said.

UCPB's move comes in the wake of keen interest expressed by several foreign financial institutions to set up joint-venture asset management companies with local banks.

Alcid said UCPB holds several prime pieces of property in its portfolio and during the last two years had successfully turned around a number of them into productive assets that now generate revenue for the bank.

These projects include a mixed-use hotel-office development, a shopping mall in Pasay City, a commercial building in Manila, a parking lot in Makati City and a vacant lot-turned-public transport terminal in Mandaluyong City, among others.

Alcid said the asset managers would oversee the assets like an enterprise and could even explore joint ventures with local and foreign investors to co-develop the assets.

UCPB's expanded asset management group will be divided into two areas: one will focus on disposition of assets that the market is ready to absorb such as residential properties and commercial buildings while the other will enhance and improve the value of the assets using the bank's in-house property specialists in preparation for their eventual disposition when the property market turns around.

BPI reports 72% jump in 2001 net profit

BANK of the Philippine Islands (BPI), the country's second largest bank, said net income in 2001 surged 72 percent to P5.25 billion on higher trading gains and a larger asset base.

The figure, which translates to a 10.6-percent return on equity, was in line with local analysts' forecasts of a 2001 net income of P5.2-P5.3 billion. However, it was slightly lower than Multex Global Estimates forecast of P5.43 billion or P3.50 a share.

The bank said in a statement its net interest income in 2001 rose 7 percent from last year's P14.06 billion despite a 28-basis-point drop in its net interest margin. This was due to an 11-percent increase in its average asset base, with average deposits rising 16 percent year on year.

Non-interest income of the bank grew 23 percent year on year, mainly due to higher trading gains and the year-on-year reversal of 2000's $467 million in losses in its insurance units.

BPI set aside P2.7 billion for probable loan losses in 2001, lower than P3.59 billion in 2000, and with a total of P1.7 billion in bad loans written off for the year.

The bank, known for conservative lending, said its reserve cover on non-performing loans (NPL) was at 64 percent at the end of 2001, among the highest in the industry. Its NPL ratio was at 11.6 percent at the end of 2001.

BPI's total loans grew 5 percent to P203.2 billion in 2001 while its total deposit liabilities rose 7 percent to 316.7 billion. **Reuters**

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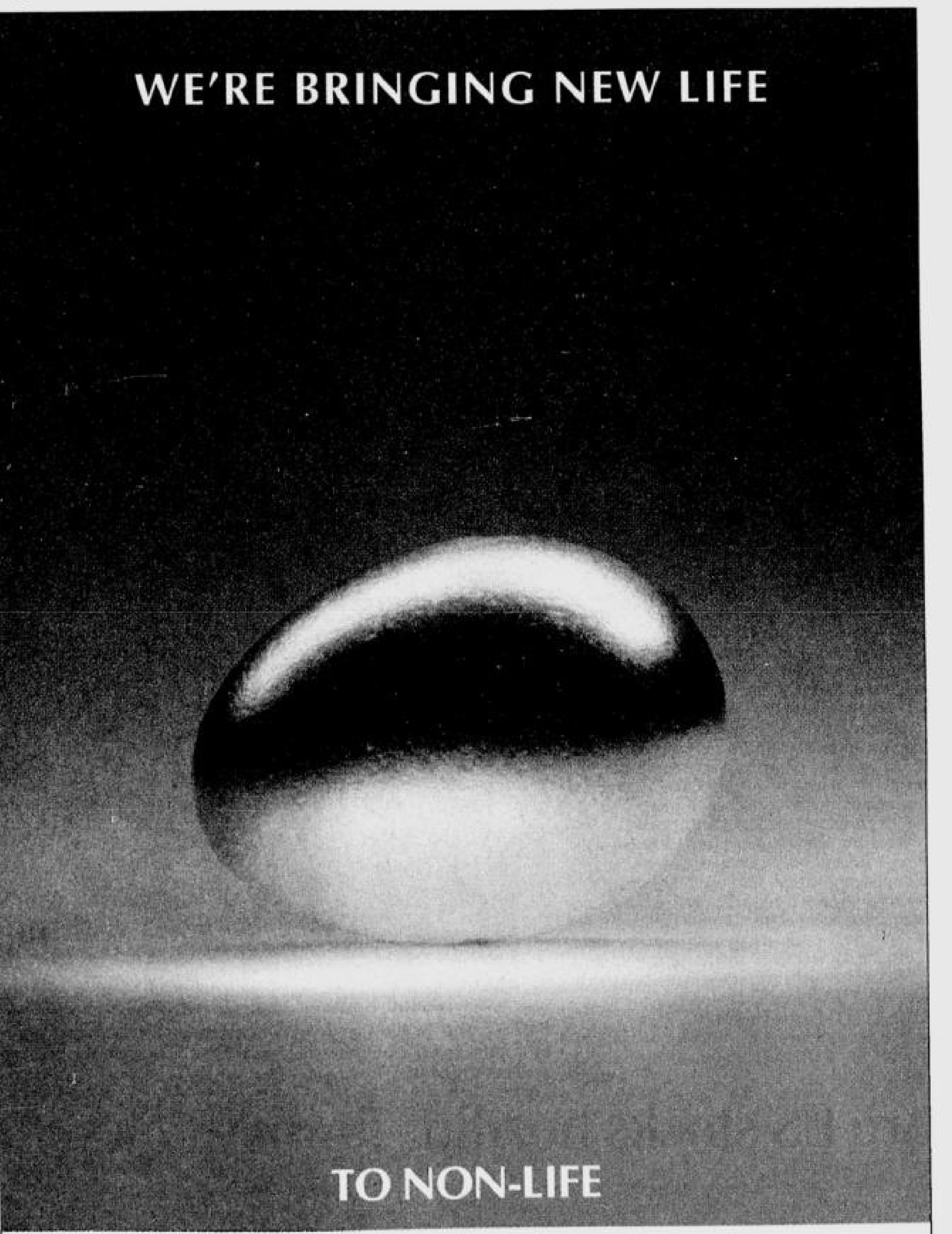

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Lindows OS to run Windows programs, but faces skepticism, lawsuits

SAN JOSE, California—Michael Robertson's last startup, MP3.com, helped ignite the digital music revolution, attracting a big buzz and lawsuits from major record labels.

Robertson's latest gig is no less ambitious: an operating system called Lindows that aims to run programs designed for Microsoft Corp.'s Windows.

The gist: No Microsoft purchase necessary. Lindows is being built to run on the Linux operating system.

Lindows.com Inc. is attracting considerable attention—and skepticism—just months after it was announced. It is also fighting its first lawsuit, from Microsoft, for alleged trademark infringement.

"Anytime you're trying to change the world, you're going to encounter challenges," said Robertson, who sold MP3.com last year to Vivendi Universal SA but still serves as an adviser.

If delivered as promised, Lindows could do nothing less than crack Microsoft's monopoly on business and home operating systems—in effect succeed where antitrust regulators have so far failed.

If Lindows works, it would provide an alternative that's easy to use and runs efficiently but costs about half the full retail price of the home edition of Windows XP and plays well with real Windows-based systems.

And if it wins customers, it could open up a vast library of Linux software and opportunities for programmers in the open-source community.

But those are big "ifs."

Lindows has offered few details about its product. On Jan. 24, it offered a $99 download of a "Sneak Preview" on condition the information not be made public.

Public releases are expected later this year.

Even if Lindows works, analysts question whether it will find traction among consumers who have largely rejected attempts to make Linux palatable for the masses.

Linux, after all, has not made headway into desktop PCs despite low costs, user-friendly desktop environments and programs that claim to be compatible with Windows, including Sun Microsystems Inc.'s Star Office.

It may simply be too difficult.

"Look at Star Office. Here's something that's already interoperable with the world-accepted standard of Microsoft products," said Matthew Berk of Jupiter Media Metrix. "Why hasn't it found wider adoption?"

Sun tried in the mid-1990s to create software that could run Windows programs in its Unix-based Solaris operating system. The so-called Wabi project was shut down in 1997.

"They didn't put enough money behind it," said Rob Enderle, an analyst at Giga Information Group. "It was a special project and, for the most part, it was never funded to a level that would have allowed it to succeed."

Since 1993, a loose community of Linux and other Unix programmers in the so-called Wine project have been working on free software that allows Windows-based programs to run in Linux.

Despite all that effort, Wine remains difficult to use and is far from 100 percent compatible.

Lindows will use components of Wine but also is improving them, Robertson said. *AP*

ROBERTSON

MANUFACTURING INDEX

Report paints upbeat US picture

WASHINGTON—A regional Federal Reserve bank report on Monday painted a more upbeat picture of the hard-hit US manufacturing sector in January, while another showed that clouds persisted through the end of last year.

The Kansas City Fed said its manufacturing index rose to 6 in January, the first positive reading in three months, from -21 in December and -15 in November, but it stood at -37 compared with January 2000.

"Production and orders fell farther below year-ago levels, and employment and capital expenditures showed little sign of improvement," the Kansas City Fed said.

"On the bright side, however, price pressures remained in check and expectations for future production and orders continued to rebound from lows reached in the fall," it said.

The index of new orders in January was 11 compared to -25 in December. The finished product prices index stood at -9 compared to -5 in December, while raw product prices stood at one compared with 2 in December. Expectations for the next six months were higher for production, shipments and new orders.

But in a separate report, the Chicago Fed said its Midwest Manufacturing Index fell 0.5 percent to 145 in December from 145.8 in November. The index fell 10.9 percent from the same month a year ago.

The Chicago Fed, whose report measures output in autos, steel, machinery and resources, said for the month of December, only autos gained, up 0.7 percent after a 3.1-percent jump in November. But they fell 0.9 percent from November a year ago.

Steel output saw the largest drop, plunging 2.1 percent after a 1.5-percent fall in November. It was down 13.2 percent from December 2000.

"The beleaguered US steel industry has struggled for several years, with many firms moving into bankruptcy and/or shuttering their plant operations," the Chicago Fed said.

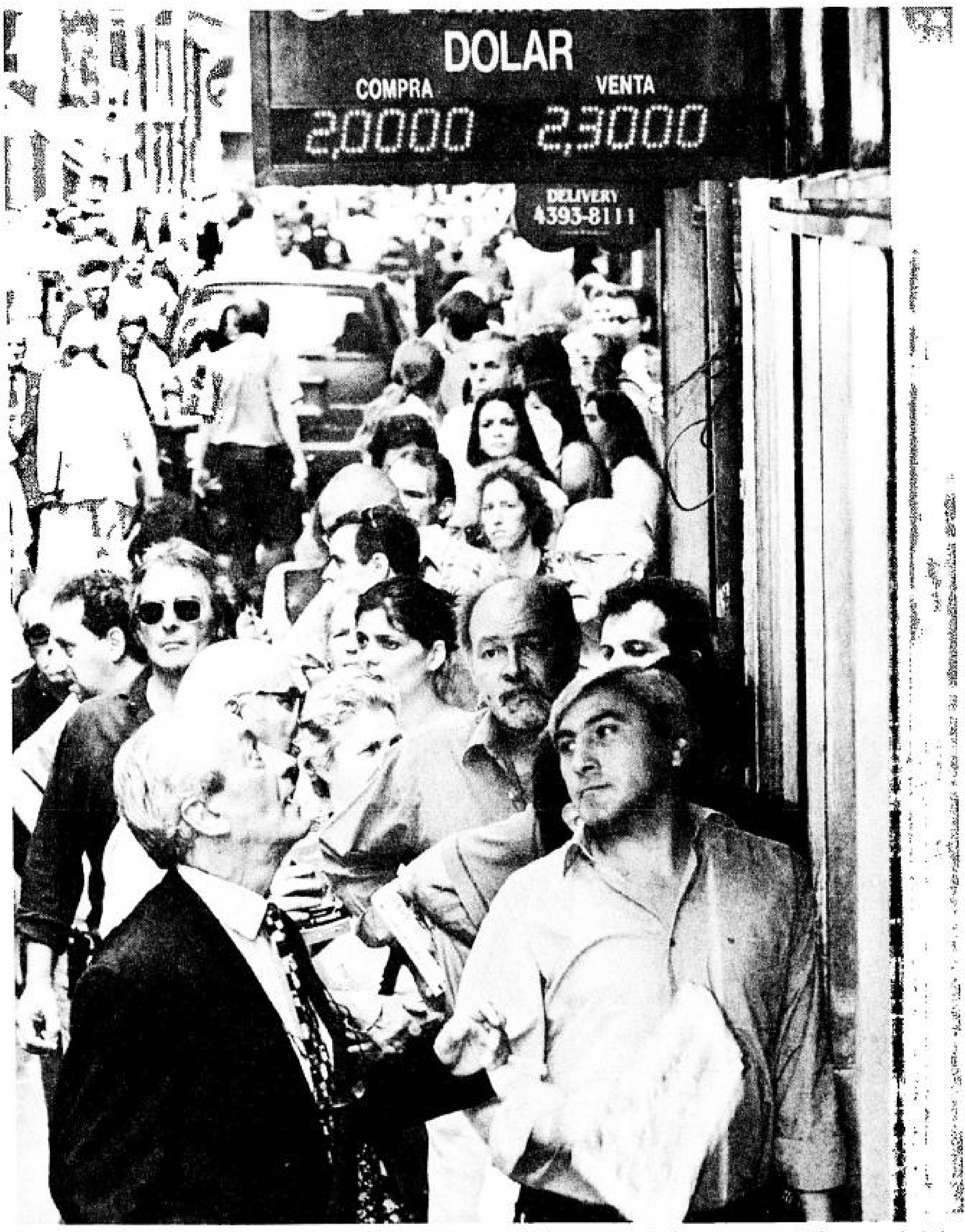
The Chicago central bank report is a monthly estimate of manufacturing output in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin. The Kansas City Fed data is a survey of manufacturing plants in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wyoming, northern New Mexico and western Missouri.

Last week, the Institute for Supply Management, an industry trade group, said its monthly non-manufacturing index edged lower to 49.6 in January from a revised 50.1 in December.

A reading below 50 indicates contraction in the services sector, which includes everything from transportation to legal and financial services. ISM's more closely watched manufacturing index has been mired below 50 for the past 1-1/2 years but rallied to 49.9 in January, spurring recovery hopes.

A more upbeat report came also last week when the Commerce Department reported a 1.2 percent gain in US December factory orders, following a 4.3 percent plunge in November.

The Federal Reserve will issue total US industrial production for January on February 15. *Reuters*



PEOPLE wait to enter a currency exchange house in Buenos Aires. Argentina's government fully uncoupled the peso from the US dollar on Monday for the first time in more than a decade. Exchange houses overflowed with anxious Argentines seeking dollars. AP

Japan urges BOJ to fight deflation

TOKYO—Japan wants its central bank to raise monthly purchases of Japanese government bonds (JGBs) by 25 percent to help fight deflation in the country, Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa said Tuesday.

A second minister called on the Bank of Japan to take "bold and flexible action" when considering fresh monetary policy to help the Japanese economy out of its worst post-war recession.

"We know the BoJ's efforts to provide ample liquidity helps to prevent deflation," Shiokawa said.

"The government wants the bank to increase its outright purchases of government bonds to one trillion yen ($7.5 billion) from 800 billion yen," he told a budget committee meeting in parliament.

Deflation has attacked the Japanese economy since the mid-1990s, eating into corporate profits and raising the burden of debt in real terms.

Slack demand amid a deep recession coupled with cheap imports has ensured prices have continued to weaken, forcing firms to slash payrolls in a bid to survive the slump. This has further pressured consumer spending, prompting further price cuts in a vicious cycle.

In December, consumer prices—a key indicator of inflation or deflation—fell for the 28th straight month, down 1.2 percent from a year earlier. ***AFP***

Tokyo waters down G7 growth pledge

TOKYO—Japan backtracked on Tuesday on a pledge made at a Group of Seven meeting over the weekend to post a one-percent growth in gross domestic product over fiscal 2003.

"I offered explanations of the plan to set a one-percent growth target in the year to March 2004 at the G7 meeting in Canada. This is the goal we must accomplish," Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa told a regular news conference.

"The government forecasts growth for the year to March 2003 will be zero," he said.

But the pledge was not a firm commitment, Shiokawa added, despite assuring his partners from the world's seven industrialized nations over the weekend that Japan would not act as a brake slowing down global economic growth.

"That does not amount to a government policy," he told reporters. "I explained that we would aim for one-percent growth."

In a separate news conference, the government's top spokesperson, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda, also tried to downplay the significance of Shiokawa's growth promise.

"I don't know whether or not it's appropriate to call his comments a commitment. I think he was just talking about a forecast," Fukuda said. ***AFP***

Nortel CFO quits; investigations set

TORONTO—Toronto-based networking giant Nortel Networks announced the resignation Monday of its chief financial officer in the face of a possible probe into his trades within the company's employee pension plan.

The company said the executive, Terry Hungle, resigned. It said it had voluntarily notified financial regulators in Canada and the United States about "certain personal investment transactions carried out in 2001 by Hungle" in the Nortel US retirement plan known as a 401k.

Nortel said the questionable transactions involved the movement of an estimated $168,000 in 401k funds into other accounts before certain Nortel news could be made public.

"These transactions occurred outside the trading windows imposed by the corporation upon certain employees, including Hungle, and prior to news releases issued by the corporation on March 27, 2001 and Dec. 21, 2001," the company said.

Nortel said chief executive Frank Dunn would be acting as chief financial officer for the time being. ***AFP***

Are US stocks heading for new lows? Trend says, 'Yes'

NEW YORK—It takes place every four years, but it's not the Olympics, World Cup soccer championship or even a leap year. It's the Four-Year Stock Market Cycle, and some of Wall Street's top technical analysts swear by it.

The year 2002 could see Wall Street put in a final low for the nasty bear market clawing at stocks for two years now, according to this esoteric gauge.

Why?

"It (the cycle) has been visible," says Louise Yamada, head of technical research at Salomon Smith Barney. "It's a pattern that has been historically valid whether it relates to election years or to business cycles, or whether it relates to any number of things."

Yamada and a host of other top-tier Wall Street technicians, who focus on stock price action rather than economic fundamentals, believe 2002 could see the cycle play out again.

"Nineteen-ninety-eight was the last bear market low; 1994 was a low, 1990 was the bear market low before that, and in 1987 you sort of clipped it (eliminated extremes in the averaging) a little, and also 1980 and 1984 (were lows)," said Yamada.

Stocks have been mauled in the bear market that began early in 2000. The tech-laden Nasdaq composite index has fallen a mind-numbing 72 percent from its all-time closing high of 5,048.62 points to a closing low of 1,423.19 on Sept. 21 in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Nasdaq and other key gauges rallied sharply up until early January. But the indexes have given back a big chunk of the advance, and the question is whether they will revisit the September lows.

The chart-gazers are divided. Some argue that the market has not hit a bottom yet, at least judging by the cycle theory.

If history is any guide, this year stocks will hit another bottom, the theory's boosters argue.

"When you see a low occur every four years, you begin to say 'Well, maybe that's a message from the market'," said Jim Tillman, an independent technical analyst who publishes Cycle Trend newsletter in North Carolina.

"The last time we reached certain oversold levels was in October of '98. So it does not take a rocket scientist to figure that 'Well, if we plan on a four-year cycle, then that might be around October of 2002,'" Tillman said.

From 1970 to 1974, it was a perfect four-year cycle bottom, Tillman said. "That was the last major bear market. In 1974, you reached levels that you had not seen in 30 years," he added.

Ralph Acampora, Prudential Securities' star technical analyst has used up much ink to tell clients that 2002 could indeed be the year when Wall Street finally exits the bear market. ***Reuters***

Indian outsourcing firms bid to become back office to the world

BOMBAY, India—When Wolfgang Huhn, a strategist with an international consultant firm, made a presentation in Germany recently on the benefits of business process outsourcing to the firm's European clients, he practiced what he preached.

The PowerPoint presentation Huhn relied on during his speech had been put together in Madras, India. Huhn's employer, McKinsey & Co., "outsourced" the slides for the presentation.

Increasingly, Indian enterprises are providing a slew of services, including billing, salary accounting and customer services for large and medium companies in the West for a fraction of what it costs the companies to provide these services themselves.

"India is on the road to becoming the back office to the world. Companies all over the world are getting their non-core activity done from a low-cost environment like India," said Raman Roy of Spectramind eServices, a business outsourcing firm based in New Delhi.

Outsourcing has helped large corporations concentrate on their main line of business and leave routine and clerical activities to entities set up or hired for the purpose in faraway India.

Roy helped American Express and GE Capital set up call centers in India. Their success in saving costs spurred him to set up Spectramind two years ago.

Dell, Compaq, British Airways and Brigade Solutions are among other multinationals that have chosen to outsource some of their business processes from India.

Indian outsourcing firms offer services ranging from preparation of payrolls, insurance claims processing and collection of dues. Thousands of young Indian graduates are mastering taxation laws, auditing procedures and banking practices in the United States and other Western countries to snap up lucrative jobs.

What enables the business is technology. The Internet and advanced communications systems have made it irrelevant where these functions are carried out.

"Geography is history. A company loses nothing by moving routine work out of its office and into India. If anything, it might just get it done more efficiently because specialists are handling it," said Roy.

What started a few years ago as a spurt of third-party call centers in India, where customers of large American companies got their queries answered, has bloomed into a multibillion-dollar opportunity for Indian firms covering a wide range of services that cost-conscious companies do not want to do themselves.

Between April 2001 and March 2002, Indian companies are expected to earn $1.5 billion from business process outsourcing orders, largely from the United States. As many as 107,000 people, most of them in their early 20s and possessing a graduate degree, have been employed by these firms.

"India has unique advantages to offer companies looking for business process outsourcing," Huhn told a meeting of India's National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom) in Bombay last week.

A joint study by Nasscom and McKinsey foresees the business process outsourcing industry will log revenues of $17 billion and provide employment to 1.1 million people by 2008.

The study said American companies typically added between $20 million and $40 million annually to their profits by getting their routine work done by Indian firms.

Despite its dependence on high technology, business process outsourcing is a big employer too.

"Interestingly, the business process outsourcing industry provides employment to non-technical people such as accountants in a highly technical environment. In the first wave of India's software boom, engineers were getting most of the jobs. Now, clerks and accountants are getting attention," said LS Ram of Cross Domains, a start-up firm based in Bangalore, India's software hub.

While India bids to get a larger share of the global spending on business process outsourcing, competition is gearing up too. Companies from China, the Philippines, Malaysia and Ireland are seeking to highlight their low-cost advantage to steer business their way.

"I don't think it will be easy to beat India in this. The country has a large English-speaking population and has built an understanding of various business processes that are being outsourced. India might just stay ahead," Huhn said. ***AP***

INTERPUBLIC GROUP MEETS GMA
Interpublic Group chair John Dooner (second from left) called on President Macapagal-Arroyo during her recent visit in New York City. Dooner was accompanied by (extreme left) Foote, Cone and Belding (FCB) Worldwide-Manila chair and CEO Jose Manuel Romualdez; (second from right) FCB Worldwide CEO Brendan Ryan, and (right) Weber-Shandwick chair Jack Leslie Jr. IPG is the holding company of McCann-Erickson, Lowe and Partners Worldwide and FCB.

Francisco Motors to sue Mazda, Ford

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FED up with the Board of Investments' indifference on its dispute with Ford Motor Co. and Mazda Motors Corp., Francisco Motors Corp. will now seek legal means to get compensation from the foreign automotive giants for breach of its exclusive contract to distribute Mazda pickups and passenger vans in the country.

In a letter to the BOI, FMC legal counsel Eleazar G. Ferry said FMC has decided to elevate the matter to the court for proper adjudication because its efforts to get administrative solutions against Ford and Mazda have proved futile.

FMC asked the BOI to furnish the company with documents regarding Ford's model registration application for the Ranger pickup and Econovan; Ford's application for the Asean Industrial Cooperation agreement between its Philippine and Thailand subsidiaries, and its import authority from October 1999 up to the present.

FMC had sought the BOI's help in enforcing its rights as a registered member of the Motor Vehicle Development Program since 1999. But its pleas for justice have apparently fallen on deaf ears at the BOI which FMC claimed had consistently favored Ford-Mazda on the issue. FMC had twice appealed its case to Malacañang—in 2000 and 2002—but it was directed both times to let the BOI decide the issue.

FMC felt that the BOI was merely sitting on its case until its exclusive contract to sell Mazda B-2500 pickups and Powervans lapse next year. FMC is seeking compensation of roughly $35 million from Mazda and Ford.

FMC alleged that Mazda breached its exclusive contract in connivance with Ford, which introduced the Ranger in 1999 and is planning to sell Econovan here. Ford has a minority stake in Mazda.

The B-series and Ranger pickups and the Powervan and Econovan share the same platforms which FMC claimed is not allowed under the rules of the Motor Vehicle Development Program. The program, it said, disallows double registration. FMC had consented to Ford's registration of its Ranger pickup but it withdrew its no-objection letter to the BOI when Ford and Mazda did not live up to their agreement to include FMC in a new marketing and distribution deal.

FMC earlier asked Malacañang to intervene in its contract dispute with Ford and Mazda saying it was its only hope since it could not afford to file a case against the foreign automotive giants.

In a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, FMC chair Fernando T. Francisco said: "We have been so financially weakened by the calibrated actions of Ford and Mazda, that we cannot even afford to go to court to seek redress because of the enormous filing fee required. This is why we are seeking your intercession."

Lafayette to start $40-M project

By Christine A. Gaylican

LAFAYETTE (Philippines) Inc. said it would start the development of a mine and the construction of a processing plant for its $40-million Rapu Rapu Polymetallic project Legaspi, Albay in the second quarter.

Lafayette country manager Rod D. Watt yesterday said in an interview that the company was confident it would be able to meet the requirements imposed on the mining project by certain government agencies in the first quarter. It also aims to finalize during the quarter the $35-million financing it is seeking from a London-based bank.

"We are still on track and we are working double time in getting our documentary approvals from different government agencies," Watt told the INQUIRER.

These documentary requirements include a municipal government endorsement and the approval by the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences of its feasibility study that contains environment protection and enhancement program.

The MGB said it might be able to release Lafayette's documents by March.

Lafayette has already obtained its environmental clearance permit and completed its feasibility study. It is now in final discussion with its creditor, Standard Bank of London Ltd., for the project financing.

"Last October, Resource Service Group Pty. Ltd. acting on behalf of our bank in London has completed its audit of the project and according to its report, it found the project technically and economically feasible," Watt added.

Watt said the company was in the process of identifying the debt and equity structure of the financing, but it was expecting to obtain the loan in the first quarter of the year.

The $35-million loan will be used to finance the development of the mine and processing plant as well as the establishment of support infrastructure, including a pier capable of handling 8,000-deadweight ton ships, an accommodation village for the contractors and a 6-megawatt power plant.

DHL Worldwide infuses $20M into RP subsidiary

DHL Worldwide Philippines Corp., the joint venture between DHL Philippines Corp. and DHL Worldwide Express B.V., has obtained substantial investment commitment from its global headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

The initial investment commitment of about $20 million has already been infused into the Philippine operations. It was used to fund the establishment of support facilities such as the newly opened country office, state-of-the-art IT network and full service warehouse facilities in Makati, Ortigas, the Calabarzon area and Cebu.

The company has modernized its gateway operations in local airport terminals and acquired a new fleet of vans and other service vehicles. Also, seven express centers will be opened within the year.

"This is the start of a major investment plan aimed at making the local DHL operations at par with our global courier operations," explained country manager Mike Fitzpatrick.

The new DHL country office, the DHL House along Chino Roces Avenue in Makati City, boasts of an extensive IT network. "Smart" office systems function with cordless Internet; phone lines are equipped with Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) technology for continuous connectivity, and online courier scanners automatically track packages around the world.

In addition, the company has hired and trained approximately 450 new personnel to cover all functions such as pick up and delivery, local operations, customs, customer service, sales and accounting, marketing, IT, human resource, finance and general management.

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Filinvest ready to defend bond float, insists deal aboveboard

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY developer Filinvest Land Inc. said yesterday its controversial P1.2-billion convertible bond float was aboveboard, and that it was ready to clear up questions on alleged irregularities cited by some stockbrokers.

Investor relations officer Fely Ramos said in an interview that Filinvest's further disclosures would answer most of the questions concerning the bond issue, and that the company would soon give a briefing to clear up the issue.

In a separate disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Filinvest said 80 percent of the holders of its long-term commercial papers cleared the bond float.

The company disclosed that AB Capital and Investment Corp., First Metro Investment Corp., East West Banking Corp., Equitable PCI Bank Inc. and United Coconut Planters Bank cleared the transaction.

The subscriber to Filinvest's bonds was Reco Grandhomes Pte. Ltd., a unit of the Government of Singapore Investment Corp. Pte. Ltd., which raised its stake in Filinvest to about 23.4 percent from 12 percent.

The conversion price agreed upon was between P1.70 and P1.875, lower than the market price and disappointing the stock market.

In a petition lodged with the stock exchange, 30 brokers questioned whether Filinvest followed proper disclosure procedures.

The brokers also urged the local bourse to investigate whether the bond offer favored certain individuals who might have gotten advanced information of the conversion price to the prejudice of the investing public.

They also questioned why the conversion price was below market price before the circular was issued and asked the PSE to determine whether the holder of the bond could do away with the holding period and sell immediately.

Lastly, the brokers said the issuance of the P1.2 billion worth of bonds was subject to the stock exchange's rule on additional listing of shares.

The PSE prohibits the listing of new shares issued at a price of 10 percent below the prevailing market price.

The stock exchange is now investigating the brokers' complaints.

Security Bank reports 91% increase in income

DESPITE a depressed market, Security Bank Corp., a publicly listed universal bank, has reported a 91-percent increase in its operating income last year.

In a statement, the bank said its operating income on a pre-tax and pre-provision basis rose to P1.4 billion last year from P745 million a year earlier.

These gains were achieved through improved margins, strong non-interest income earnings and efficient management of operating expenses, Security Bank said.

Sustained marketing efforts for treasury, retail and corporate banking products, particularly electronic banking services, also improved the bank's service delivery capabilities.

Consistent with its objective of strengthening its balance sheet, Security Bank accelerated the buildup of its loan risk reserves in 2001, despite having one of the lowest nonperforming loan ratio in the industry at 11.7 percent.

This resulted in an improvement in the bank's non-performing loan cover to 58 percent compared to 47 percent in the beginning of 2001.

Central bank statistics in August showed that the average non-performing loan ratio of universal banks stood at 20.3 percent, while the industry average was at 42 percent.

After setting aside a total of P1.008 billion in loan loss provisions during the year, Security Bank booked a net income of P427 million in 2001.

The comparative 2000 net income was at P421 million after provisioning of P486 million.

At year-end, Security Bank's resources stood at P65.16 billion. Net loans stood at P32.28 billion, with bank placements and investment securities amounting to P20.48 billion. Deposit liabilities amounted to P40.41 billion, while capital funds now stand at P9.09 billion.

DISCLOSURES

BALABAC Resources & Holdings Co. Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 2, 4 p.m. at the Turf Room of Manila Polo Club. Stockholders of record as of Feb. 22 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

THE MERGER of **Urban Bank**, **Urbancorp Investments Inc.** and **Export and Industry Bank Inc.** will entail a reduction in the par value of the company's share price from P100 to P1 per share and an increase in its authorized capital stock to P7.5 billion divided into 6 billion common shares and 1.5 billion preferred shares.

* * *

SANITARY Wares Manufacturing Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on March 19, 9 a.m. at the Grand Ballroom of Vivere Richville Regency Suites in Alabang. Stockholders of record as of Feb. 18 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. Also, the company announced the election of Edena Low and Rodolfo Gutierrez as directors.

* * *

URBANCORP Securities Inc. submitted the name of Reynaldo David in place of Teodoro Borlongan as its corporate nominee to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

* * *

THE BOARD of the Philippine Stock Exchange approved the appointment of Ma. Lourdes Sison as corporate nominee of **DBS Vickers Securities Philippines Inc.**

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. will hold an investors' briefing on Feb. 26, 3 p.m. at the Rigodon Ballroom of Manila Peninsula Hotel. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, February 12, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	66.5	67.5	66.5	67	160,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28	28.5	28	28.5	166,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	210	206	210	84,740
Phil. Bank of Comm.	100	100	100	100	100
Philippine National Bank	76	76	76	76	8,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.25	13	12.25	13	22,200
Security Bank Corp.	18	18.75	18	18.75	14,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	19	19.5	18.5	19.5	352,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.26	1.26	80,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	160,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1350	1350	1350	1350	2,590
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1030	1050	1030	1050	3,640
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30	31	30	31	23,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.66	0.69	0.64	0.69	19,710,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	765	765	760	760	2,550
Ipeople Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.76	0.76	130,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.037	0.039	0.037	0.038	11,600,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	60,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	11,000
Piltel	0.59	0.6	0.55	0.57	10,940,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	160,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	505	515	505	510	82,570
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	223,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	27	27.5	27	27	17,800
Manila Electric Co. B	39.5	39.5	39	39.5	508,300
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.92	1.84	1.88	11,210,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.93	0.92	0.92	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.05	3.1	3	3	2,987,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	210,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.5	400,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	890,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	4,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.67	0.68	0.66	0.68	450,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	18,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	361,900
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23.5	23.75	23.5	23.75	45,800
RFM Corp.	1.38	1.48	1.38	1.42	1,516,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	40,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47	49	46.5	49	284,500
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	65	63.5	65	369,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.3	5,873,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.78	1.86	1.78	1.84	1,896,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	230,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	370,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	95,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.235	0.26	0.23	0.23	9,100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.78	0.79	15,030,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.4	3,570,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	2,100,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,100,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.99	1.02	0.99	1.02	420,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	30.5	31	30	30	524,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.18	0.185	0.17	0.17	3,540,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	200,000
Ionics Inc.	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.6	31,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.84	1.84	55,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.85	0.87	0.84	0.86	4,080,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.5	0.75	0.5	0.75	180,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.36	3,130,000
Music Corp.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.33	11,130,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	700,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.37	0.4	0.37	0.38	660,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	200,000
Wise Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	22,000,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	160,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5	5	5	5	50,000
Pryce Corp.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1,300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	15	14.25	15	159,100
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	860,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.57	0.57	160,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.4	220,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.45	0.49	0.45	0.49	110,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	180,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	20,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	31	31.5	31	31	148,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	10	10	10	10	28,800
Jollibee Warrants	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	24,500
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	19,000,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	6,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	8,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	88,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.6	8,967,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	460,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	4,960,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.49	0.51	0.48	0.49	8,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	7,280,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.98	2.08	1.96	2.04	9,301,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,020,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.21	0.24	0.21	0.23	330,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.76	1.82	1.76	1.82	45,000
SM Development Corp.	0.98	0.99	0.95	0.95	610,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	5,805,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	10,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.043	0.046	0.043	0.043	95,800,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.043	0.046	0.043	0.046	2,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	180,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.225	3,060,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	5,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	2,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	36,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	1,200,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	2,500,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	1,550,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	2,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	3,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000

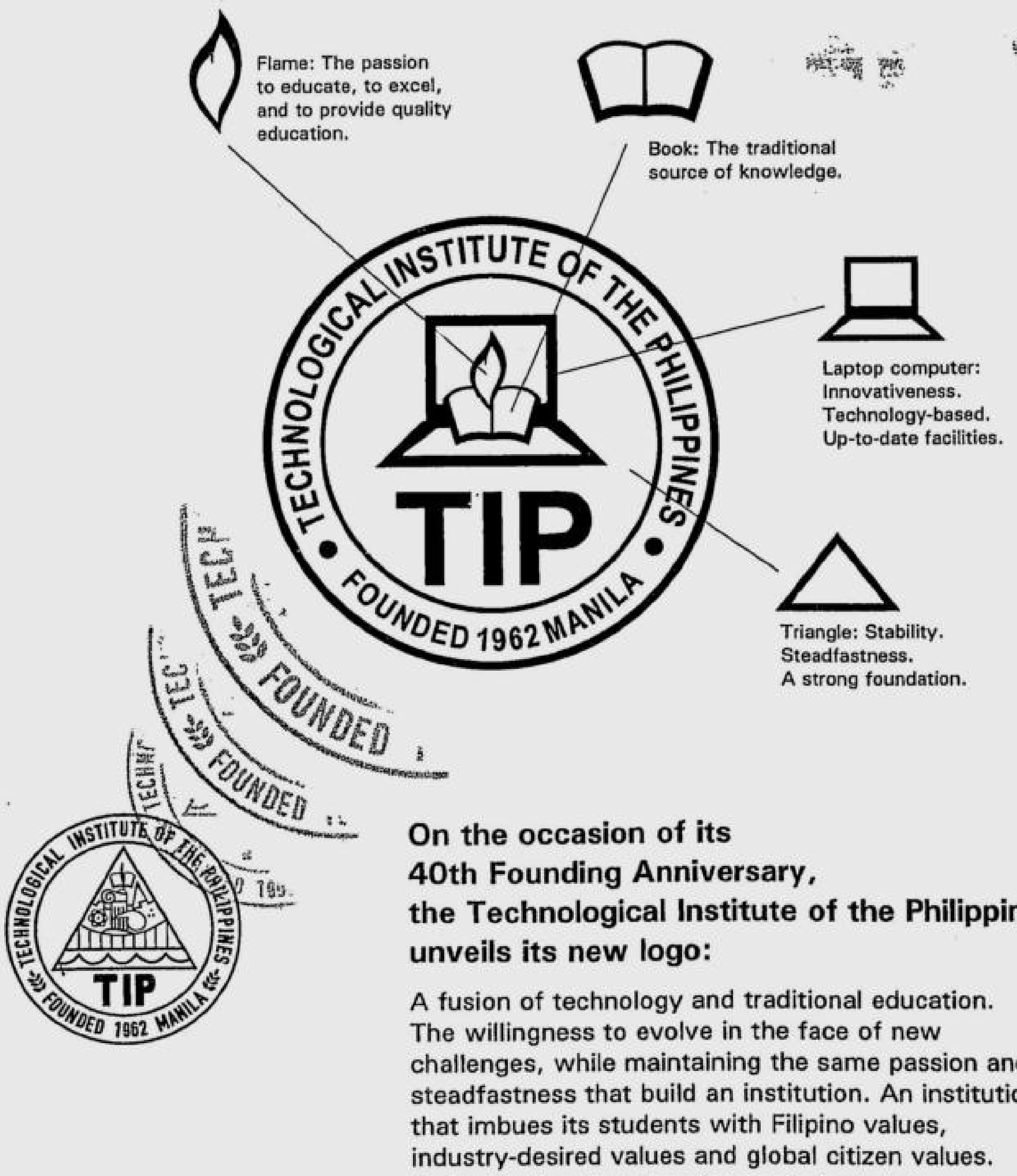
	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,048,270	47,889,715.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	577,884,140	285,299,090.00
PRO	46,798,000	125,593,040.00
Mining	149,410,000	6,543,900.00
OIL	6,220,000	124,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	781,360,410	465,450,345.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	562.93	UP 7.28
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,879.67	UP 16.41
PRO	602.35	UP 13.53
Mining	1,430.25	DOWN 27.31
OIL	1.88	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	746.93	UP 9.27
Composite	1,382.41	UP 16.45

NO. OF ADVANCES: 49; NO. OF DECLINES: 23; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 45; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 117; NO. OF TRADES: 3,564

CURRENCIES

Feb-12-2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.139991	1.000000	51.2990
Japan	Yen	0.008562	0.007511	0.3853
United Kingdom	Pound	1.621295	1.422200	72.9574
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146341	0.128370	6.5853
Switzerland	Franc	0.677156	0.594001	30.4717
Canada	Dollar	0.716930	0.628891	32.2615
Singapore	Dollar	0.622877	0.546388	28.0292
Australia	Dollar	0.584311	0.512558	26.2937
Bahrain	Dinar	3.024009	2.652661	136.0789
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.303998	0.266667	13.6798
Brunei	Dollar	0.619930	0.543803	27.8966
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000098	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.026009	0.022815	1.1704
UAE	Dirham	0.310455	0.272331	13.9703
Korea	Won	0.000870	0.000763	0.0391
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.877200	44.9995
Brazil	Real	0.465302	0.408163	20.9384
Denmark	Kroner	0.134472	0.117959	6.0512
India	Rupee	0.023456	0.020576	1.0555
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.299998	0.263158	13.4997
Mexico	New Peso	0.125495	0.110084	5.6472
New Zealand	Dollar	0.478585	0.419815	21.5361
Norway	Kroner	0.127481	0.111826	5.7366
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019031	0.016694	0.8564
South Africa	Rand	0.098700	0.08658	4.4415
Sweden	Kroner	0.108004	0.094741	4.8601
Syria	Pound	0.022222	0.019493	1.0000
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032590	0.028588	1.4665
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001434	0.001258	0.0645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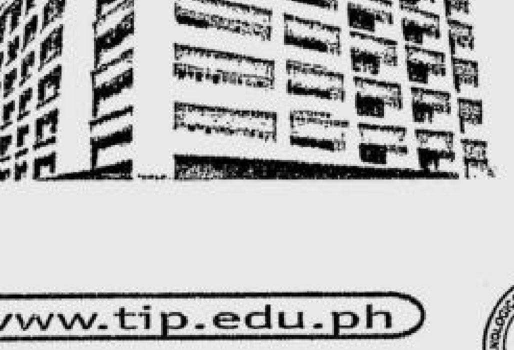

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PNOC finds gas in Tarlac

THE PHILIPPINE National Oil Co.-led exploration consortium has discovered a natural gas field in Tarlac, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced yesterday.

The consortium produced gas on Friday at the Victoria well, about 100 kilometers (62 miles) north of Manila, after two months of drilling, the President said in a statement.

Further tests are needed to determine whether the field has commercial potential. The consortium said the well has flowed continuously for two days.

But the President said: "I am optimistic that this latest discovery will act as a catalyst that will spur exploration and drilling operations in the area and eventually generate economic activities in what is considered to be a basic agricultural region."

"We believe is it about time that we further develop Central Luzon as we introduce a new industry—the natural gas industry," she said.

The potential discovery came four months after the President inaugurated the Malampaya offshore natural gas project, which has estimated recoverable reserves of up to four trillion cubic feet (114 billion cubic meters).

The Department of Energy said in a statement that gas was struck at 5,175 feet (1,568 meters).

Malampaya gas is now being delivered by undersea pipeline from the offshore production field near the western island of Palawan to a 1,000-megawatt power plant south of Manila.

Two more gas-fired power plants with a combined capacity of 1,700 megawatts are scheduled to start operations later this year.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said he believed that the gas find would generate interests from exploration and power companies.

PNOC officials earlier said the firm planned to build a gas-fired power plant in the area if a sufficient reserve would be proven.

The state firm hopes to prove a reserve of 300 billion cubic feet of gas, which could fire up a 300-mw power plant.

Last month, PNOC president Thelmo Cunanan said the Victoria gas reserve might be less than expected although it could still be commercially viable.

Early this month, an industry source said negative test results in Victoria-3 could spell an end for gas exploration in Tarlac. Gas finally flowed from the well after two failed tests.

"Things look bright for Victoria since gas has been flowing for several days now," the source said.

When a different company drilled Victoria-1 in the late 1970s, gas flowed for only 18 hours prompting the exploration firms to abandon the well.

Victoria-2, which was drilled in 1987 to 1988, yielded nothing.

The gas find in Victoria-3 illustrates the element of luck in exploration, the source added.

He noted that gas was found in the most unlikely spot during the third well test in Victoria-3.

"In oil and gas exploration, you drill at the most promising spot first," he said. ***AFP with a report from Ronnel W. Domingo***

DoF chief orders review of RP's ₱6-B debt to SGS

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is reviewing the government's obligations to Swiss import inspector Societe Generale de Surveillance in the hope of further bringing the amount down from its current level of P6.05 billion.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he had asked his staff to review the amount of payables to SGS in view of claims by certain legislators that the amount the Macapagal administration had decided to pay SGS was much higher than what was recommended.

Sen. Robert Barbers pointed out that when the government first reviewed its obligations to the Swiss pre-shipment import inspector, the payables amounted to only P1.563 billion.

Barbers said he was confused why the amount soared to P6.05 billion when the obligations were reviewed for the second time.

"The government must hold in abeyance any payment to SGS because of the discrepancy in the recommended amount," said the senator.

Camacho agreed that since the government could not settle its obligations to SGS without a congressional appropriation, there was no harm in revisiting the numbers.

The review of the payables is expected to draw objections from SGS and the Swiss government.

Last month, a trade and investment mission from Switzerland cancelled its trip to Manila to protest the Philippine government's unclear position on how it would settle its obligations to SGS.

A government source said the Swiss mission was supposed to hold talks with Philippine leaders on how trade and investment between the two countries could be enhanced.

The Macapagal administration had asked SGS to allow the government to settle its P6.05 billion obligations in installment over several years.

SGS originally billed the government about P6.48 billion for services rendered from September 1998 to March last year. After a review last year, the amount was brought down to P6.05 billion.

Globe, Fujitsu sign $80-M supply deal

By Abigail L. Ho

GLOBE Telecom Inc. yesterday said it had signed an $80-million contract with the local unit of Japan's Fujitsu Ltd. for the supply of the equipment for the local phone firm's fiber optic project.

Globe's Fiber Optic Backbone Network (FOBN) project will connect the company's existing telecommunications network in Makati to Nasugbu in Batangas, Mindoro, Panay Islands, Negros, Cebu and Iligan City.

Around 1,600 kilometers of fiber optic cables, both submarine and land, will be needed for the project.

"This is a full turnkey project worth $80 million," Gil Genio, Globe senior vice president, told reporters.

The project is expected to be completed by December this year.

Under an agreement signed on Dec. 14 last year, Fujitsu will provide Globe with Flashwave Series equipment, the latest and most advanced in optical networking technology.

Fujitsu's Flashwave Series is a DWDM (dense wavelength division multiplexer)-capable transport system, including a Flashwave 320G terminal system.

The whole system can handle a huge traffic density of up to 320 Gigabits per second. This is equivalent to around four million simultaneous long distance calls.

The project will enable Globe to further enhance its network that will provide its customers with clearer digital signals. This will, in turn, make the company more competitive in terms of tariff rates, both for domestic and international calls.

GOINGS-ON

BDO tops survey

BANCO de Oro's (BDO)'s trust banking group was ranked the No. 1 fund manager in the Watson Wyatt's survey of the investment performance of retirement funds in the Philippines for the quarter ending Sept. 30, 2001.

Among the fund managers with at least five participating funds in the survey, BDO had the highest average return on investment at 14.33 percent per year.

Watson Wyatt Worldwide is an international company of consultants and actuaries that provides totally independent advice on retirement plans, employee benefits, compensation and related areas.

SGS' ISO upgrade

SGS Philippines Inc. recently underwent a successful upgrade of its quality system certification to the new ISO 9001:2000 standard.

Performed by an Australian certification body under the JAS-ANZ (Australia-New Zealand) accreditation scheme, the certification covers SGS' four core services such as assessment and certification services; verification, inspections, calibration, testing and control services; laboratory testing, including design and development of methods, and monitoring services, and international trade verification, monitoring and facilitation services.

Its support services that include financial, human resource, information system, sales and marketing also form part of the certification scope.

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•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

L-BAHAY 8383742/5447509

LBAHAY 7113540

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Lipat Bahay • 824-1227

LIPAT BAHAY
24 hrs. mover MM/Provincial
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LIPAT BAHAY w/5 helpers 24 hrs. svc 7128861 / 7315750

LIPAT MM / PROVL•4342613•

MISCELLANEOUS

Plumbing Service • 821-1501

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMM'L/RESDL

MARIKINA

450m² Ind'l Valley Ideal Pre-School 634-1212

HOUSE & LOT

MARIKINA

1511m² Ipil St., with Pool Near S-Mall 6M • 634-1212

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

Rush! Calumpang LA 293 2BR+1TB 0917-5282174

MUNTINLUPA

Ayala Alabang 900m²/700m² /500sqm Neg 0917-5282174

QUEZON CITY

Cheap 980T only 260m² nr Rbinson,SMFview 9265338

★VALENTINE PROMO★
BNEW 3br3tb2cg POOL P2.8 24HR SEC TSORA MINDANAO 3713996★09177957850 DBO

Malaya St., cor. Banaue 7314018

Proj 4 up/down 2BR 2TB 1carGarage 0916-3862982

PROJ.3 Big 2sty la267m² 7BR 3TB P2.8M T-9137916

SAN JUAN

6BR Pool LA975 681-2457
Garden 6Pkg corner

PROVINCIAL

Rush Sale Baguio furn
P4M 7256071/4028/7243068

Taal, Batangas 2,040 sq.m. Overlooking Taal Lake Fully furnished w/ swimming pool Fixed price: P2.9M Direct Buyer Only (043)411-2210 (917)408-7365 Jun Metilla

OTHER AREAS

•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3•
LA120m² up 2-3BR w/prkg
Joann 912-5775

RUSH!CanyonWoods Btngas 6.5M 09185052638

LOT

MANDALUYONG

5000m² Mand. Lot & Various Lots 534-6610 • Jojo

MUNTINLUPA

PLEASANT VILL w/proposed rd direct to FILINVEST ALABANG 477m² P4,500/m² SOUTH GREEN-HEIGHTS VILL 300m² P1.15M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

QUEZON CITY

★ FERNDALE QC ★
Ayala Res Lots now available
204-290m² @ P9,500-P12,160
Pay 20%(In 2 mo.)Bal 5 yrs
Mo. Inst. Few Lots Only
w/Complete Facilities RUSH!
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★PROJ. 2 QC Tel. 240-1275★

PROVINCIAL

Landing, Pilar Bataan 2,800m² (047) 237-2318 / 237-4054 Totoy

Potential for Subdivision
25,000m² in Cabanatuan
Call Vic at • 0916-4946326

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

PROVINCIAL

TAAL Btngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P1.4M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

OTHER AREAS

RUSH Imus beside MAKRO 189m² only P6-5T/m² GRAND PRKPLACE VILL. 8966328 Pilar

TOWN&COUNTRY Southville 209m² P680T Vic 8903461L.27

VISTA VERDE EXEC VILLAGE LA319m² P1.3M Vic/Gigie 8903461 loc. 27/25

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd.,
Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000

COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

FORTE REALTY

871-8318	893-4206
872-7603	776-4604
829-5081	961-7521
810-8019	713-3422
810-7183	815-2144

Welcome Brokers & Agents
write to
forterealty@skyinet.net

PROVINCIAL

Gold Rich Villas
Molino Rd., San Nicolas,
Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

FORTE REALTY

829-5081	815-2144
871-8318	872-7603
810-8019	810-7183
893-4206	776-4604
713-3422	961-7521

Welcome Brokers & Agents

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BFR 1.6M 3BR2TB 8428853

MAKATI

C5 Nr The Fort 988T
10T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or
10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD!
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MANILA

OCEAN TOWER ROXAS BLVD 3 BR, 3TB, TEL. MAID RM 9.5M 0917-5292250

Providence Tower Malate Studio Type 0917-5282174

VITO CRUZ MANILA
BNew Thse 4sty/3br/3tb/grge
P2.695M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

Lee Gardens Condo 3BR Easy Payment 534-6610 • Jojo

VARIOUS WACK² CONDO
Low Price 534-6610 • Jojo

WACK² MANSION STUDIO 1.5M w/parking, Furn 6337601- 03

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MARIKINA

Metropole Townhomes
Industrial Valley,
MARIKINA
Near Ateneo, UP P3.2MM
FA187sqm LA95sqm
Tel.5352082 / 7543308-09

PASIG

1BR w/ Sala & Dining at PARC ROYALE Julia Vargas Ave fronting Tektite Tel Nos.
371-1807 ; 926-1542

235 FA Rennaisance 3000 3BR 3TB 2 Prkng 634-1212

Medical Plz-Ortigas 40-75m²Sale /Rent 412-1825 /0917-7914366

Prestige Twr Ortigs Ofc 109.9m² 4.4M 412-1825 /0917-7914366

Ren 3000 3BR 2CP 8.5M Neg. Call 412-1825 /0917-7914366

Renaissance 1BR • 681-2457 2-3BR Also Available Rush

Tektite West Ofc 111m² Sale /Rent 412-1825 /0917-7914366

Valle Verde 3BR Attic
Pkg Pool P7M Up • 681-2457

QUEZON CITY

Cubao Condo P1.3M 10% D.P.
9132224 ; 9124428 ; 4391480

EASTWOOD 2BR W/PARKING Ready 4 Occ P4.5M 6337601-03

EASTWOOD 2BR W/PARKING Ready 4 Occ P4.5M 6337601-03

Kentwd Hts Twnhse 5.6M 3BR 412-1825 /0917-7914366

TandangSora 3br+1md 2tb P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792

UNION SQ ONE FA80m² P1.9M 1BR 2TB Vic 8903461 loc. 27

WHY BUY Office Com'l/Res'l If Not Ready Use Come & See nr Ateneo, UP, St. Lukes 0% interest flexible term 4210734 / 4213223 Text 09194076857 Agent/Brokers Welcome

RIZAL

NR. SLUCIA MALL 3BR 2.0M 30%DP RFO BNEW 3732855

OTHER AREAS

gudwill homes-1 nova. brand new townhouses tel 640-8448

NU FF Studio 195T/3700mo Amenities 0916-4859133

MEMORIAL LOT

Heritage 7120038 7120229/70

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

PASAY

406 D. REYES nr ZAMORA 2BR P7.5T Call 831-5026

SAN JUAN

Spacious 2BR 2Stry Ideal Location 418 H. Lozada 631-6397

HOUSE

QUEZON CITY

2 Bedroom House
FLOOD FREE & quiet
5 Inocando, Sto. Nino, Q.C.

2-Storey House,
240m² lot 4-Bedroom
w/garage 11 Inocando,
Sto. Nino, QC
CALL 714-7867/713-9191

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR New Mkti CONDO 15T 890-5750; 0917-8103866

MktStudio 2BR Tel/Prk8079417

MANDALUYONG

1BR APT NR MKT 7.8T NEGO NEW 532-0141 / 0917-6617953

•PIONEER HIGHLANDS•
Std-3BR 10T-21T w/c'park
Ana-6873647 09172702442

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FARM/FISHPEN

FOR SALE

Fishpond for sale covering 133.2584 hectares with a fishpond lease agreement no. 425 located at Barrio Salhag, Rosario, Northern Samar, ask for details from:

Ms. Sally F. Bañga
Davao City
Tel. No. (085) 221-1140

Ms. Arlynn A. Torres
Makati City
Tel. No. (02) 817-0784/893-0487

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

Eurovilla Townhouse
2CG Sta Ana 3BR 2TB w/Mds
Rm & B 22T 561-3903

PASIG

2BR ORTIGAS CNTR Bare / Furn 15T only Call 242-0922

P6.5 T7240024 CP95547237

VV6 1BR+Den Nicely Interior 17T 412-1825 / 0917-7914366

QUEZON CITY

3BR Attic 3TB 1Mdr Loyala
GRAND VILLAS
CP#0919-3644048 4107062,
Must love Nature/Quiet

SEMIFURNISHED CONDO UNIT NEAR SM F'VIEW 4T/MO. TXT /CALL 0916-4862160 / 8159616 EXT. 309 W/BAR & TERRACE

OTHER AREAS

SJ 20T 3BR 0916-4859133

FOR LEASE

7,100m²
IDEAL for industrial
establishment along Sta. Rosa
Tagaytay Road,
Pasong Langka Silang,
Cavite

Along Quezon Ave.
Ground Flr. 289m²,
3rd Flr. Area 187m² & 120.5m²
& Basement 346m²
Comm'l Ofc. space for rent
Lida 924-0720

L717m² Cubao QC VLOT 4 Lease P39T/mo. 928-1469

ROOM & BOARD

A1Condo M/F FreeUtility8906374

Nr LaSalle P6T 8992148

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2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

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Celphone Center Stall MRT Taft PC 8215236

MAKATI AVE.
OFC. SPACE FOR RENT 144m² Penthouse 148m² 40T/mo Queenie 9297052/54 ofc.

MAKATI Nr BUENDIA Pramo 38/85/62/185m² 1st Class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs.

OFF Avenida Nr Raon 735-6516

Ortigas Ctr Ofc 60-1200 @200 Up 412-1825 /0917-7914366

STORE WID ROLL UP DOOR 524 EDSA CALOOCAN 3610662

STRATA 2000 250m² Ortigas P50T(neg) other sizes/loc 2420922

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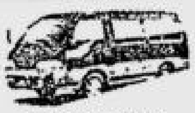
TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

MIREA TRADING



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Musso 4x4 Galloper 4x4
MB100 (Benz) Besta 2.2 4x4
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Cel: 0917-9657482
0919-7518488

BMW

1995 BMW 316I Silver Call 0464300471-74 Php 550000

'92 BMW Euro 410K 4719099

FORD

'83 Model Ford Telstar 4DR Sedan P60T Neg. 640-8448

MERCEDES

ML2001 270CDI 8000Milage Silver 3.2M 637-8101 • 637-8080 Gret

NISSAN

'96 SENTRA SS A/T 67TKm Black Indash CD Player No Prblm Sporty Look Must See 250T Neg. -ED 0919-2004828

TOYOTA

97 Lite Ace P330 6872354/66

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

5, 10, 40, 55,65KVA 3610215

ENGINE Welder 40T 3610215

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Bnew Van 8254058 8261045

CAR VANS 413-5383

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

HI ACE VANS 8252988

HiAce, L300 9296250

VANS MM/PROVL★4342613★

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

MARIAN 8955627
CARS CSTER VANS BRDAL

MB Starex HiAce L3 8257135

SELF-DRIVE
New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS
ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

TOYCO Trans Cars Vans Coaster Rental •800-6595•

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8900215

CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677623/24

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

TRACTOR 4x4 P55T 3672002

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•AM COCKER SPANIEL•
3MONTHS PEDIGREE 8160148

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LICENSED BY THE GOVT.
Tel : 721-37-36

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MISCELLANEOUS

Water Pump with Pressure Tank 1HP P5TH 634-1212

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Cash Van Salesman Male, Must know how to drive college grad preferred Pasig, Mand. resident 531-3356 • 531-5538

FEMALE

Acctg Clerk Acctng Grad Female Computer Literate Pasig, Mand. Resident 531-3356 • 531-5538

F-ESCORT • 0917-9593176

MAIDS DIRECT HIRE 8958112

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT
DBM Bldg. I, Gen. Solano St.,
San Miguel, Manila

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
- **PROGRAM/SYSTEM SPECIALIST**
- **PROGRAMMER/ANALYST**

Qualifications:
☐ Bachelor's degree with at least two (2) years relevant experience in the field of system development and maintenance
☐ Proficient in ORACLE RDBMS and knowledge of Jaguar CTS, Power Builder and/or ORACLE development tool
☐ With working background in the development of web-based application system

Submit applications to:

Ms. Mercedes Navarro
Budget and Management Bureau E,
Dept. of Budget and Management
DBM Bldg. I, Gen. Solano St.
San Miguel, Manila
Tel. Nos. 735-4822/4878

A FOOD INGREDIENT COMPANY NEEDS

FOOD TECHNOLOGIST/ MICRO-BIOLOGIST

Qualifications:
☑ Female, single
☑ 21-25 years old
☑ B.S. Food Technology for the Food Technologist
☑ B.S. Micro-biology for the Micro-biologist
☑ For Food Technologist, preferably one or two years working experience in Food Institution or Food Manufacturing.

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CENTRAL POST OFFICE
SAN JUAN, MM, 1500

✓ comprehensive resumé
✓ records of grades
✓ 2x2 or 1½ x 1½ ID picture

A well-established security agency operating nationwide needs:

STENOGRAPHER / TYPIST
- Female, 25 years old and above
- Graduate of a four-year college course
- With typing speed of 45 WPM and steno at 60 WPM
- Will report directly to the Chief Executive Officer

ACCOUNTING CLERK
- Must have experience

Qualified applicants may apply in writing with recent photo to:

Catalina Security Agency
P.O. Box 1295, Manila

FEMALE

Wntd MEDICAL SECRETARY Apply in person with Biodata Rm 205 Physicians Cntr VRP Med Center Saturdays 1-4pm

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T5280730

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Expd. BEAUTICIAN sal+com Midwifery/Nrsg T-8178241

Expd cook 5362729

★OFC STAFF 9134470 Aya★

•OFC. STAFF 9134470 IMEE•

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FOOT SPA OPENING
Manicurista, Reflexolgy
Masseuse, 20 Wanted
882-3810 • 687-4298

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IT PROFESSIONALS URGENTLY NEEDED 7344564

NURSES & MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS URGENTLY NEEDED 7344564

SALES REP. Basic+Com+Inc Tel 655-4974 or 655-9582

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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EARN 15-20K/mo. Rush!!!
w/good loc. 60T/unit
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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

L&M MAXCO
Triple A Contractor
NEEDS SUBCONTRACTORS
Suppliers visit us at
5/F Fortune Office Building
160 Legaspi St., Legaspi
Village, Makati City

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that the S2 Card License No. 79896 under the name of Dr. Ferdinand P. Fermo was lost. *(PDI-Feb. 6, 13, '02)*

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is herbey given that the estate of the late spouses MERCURIO TRIA and SABINA R. TRIA has been extrajudicially settled among theirs heirs as per Doc. No. 869; Page No. 36; Book No. 57; Series of 2001 under the Notary Public Atty. Cipriano P. Maribojoc of Quezon City. (PDI-Feb. 6, 13 & 20, 2002)

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Thank you very much.

Republika ng Pilipinas
Komisyon ng Karapatang Pantao
(Commission on Human Rights)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS invites prospective bidders to Prequalify and bid for the supply of **SECURITY AND JANITORIAL SERVICES.**

Bidders are required to submit the following documents/ requirements for prequalification on or before **February 22, 2002** at the General Services Division:

1. SEC/DTI Registration
2. Articles of Incorporation/Partnership
3. Latest Business License/Permit 2002
4. Audited Financial Statements (attach ITR) for the last 2 years
5. VAT Registration Certificate
6. List of Clients together with their addresses, telephone numbers and contact persons and number of persons deployed for each company
7. SOCIA-PNP Clearance for Security Service only

For inquiries, please contact or see:

MS. CONSOLACION L. LIMONGCO
Chief, General Services Division
3rd Floor, SAAC Building, Commonwealth Avenue
UP Complex, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 928-2018 and 925-3880

(Sgd.) **COMM. ELIGIO P. MALLARI**
Chairman, Committee on Bids and Awards

(PDI – Feb. 12, 13 & 14, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
PORT OF MANILA
Customs District II-A
South Harbor, Manila

11 February 2002

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 and 2607 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, and in view of the fact that the hereunder listed articles are liable to perish, will be wasted or will depreciate greatly in value, there will be a **"PUBLIC AUCTION SALE"** (Open Bidding) on **FEBRUARY 14, 2002**, at **1:30 PM** at the Office of Auction & Cargo Disposal Division, Room No. 304, Customhouse Building, South Harbor, Port Area, Manila. Said goods shall be available for public viewing on **February 13, 2002.** For further inquiry, please contact the following Telephone Nos. 527-8051 local 437, 527-1975 and 527-4544.

Ten (10) x 20' containers of White SUGAR.

FLOOR PRICE: P3,664,752.00

CASH BOND REQUIRED: P20,000.00

(Sgd.) **ATTY. REYNALDO S. NICOLAS**
District Collector
Port of Manila

IMPORTANT:

Pursuant to Customs Administrative Order No. 3-94, approved on **March 18, 1994**, as implemented by CMO No. 12-94 dated **April 7, 1994**, a Registration Fee of Two Thousand (P2,000.00) Pesos is required to be eligible to participate in the auction sale.

The auction sale shall be exclusively participated by Sugar-based Product Manufacturers/Exporters importing sugar from the world market under the Customs Bonded Warehouse and in accordance with existing rules and regulations under the premises. Verification of License to Operate and Accreditation of members/inusers of CBW shall be conducted by the Chief WDRD at 9:00 AM on **February 14, 2002** up to the time auction sale be started.

(PDI – Feb. 13, 2002)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on 27 February 2002 at 2:00 p.m. of the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue cor.ner Makati Avenue, Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
LRD-145	No. 57 Faustino St., Lawang Bato (now Punturin), Valenzuela City	150 m² residential lot (TCT No. V-59978 with buildings and improvements, and two (2) candle moulding machines.	P 510,700.00
BATANGAS			
MED-132	Bgy. Sta. Rita (Carsada), Batangas City	590 m² two (2) adjoining semi-commercial lots (TCT Nos. T-43159 and T43160) with warehouse building.	P 2,280,000.00
CAVITE			
MGT-164	Bo. San Jose, Tagaytay City	10,980 m² untitled commercial/ residential lot (TD No. 2001-027-01428) with buildings and improvements.	P 23,989,000.00
MGT-165	Bo. Mambog, Bacoor	120 m² two (2) parcels of adjoining residential lots (TCT Nos. T-935854 & 935855 with building and improvements.	P 854,600.00
ILIGAN CITY			
LRD-125 a	Mahayahay	1,612 m² interior lot (TCT No. T-57,198) (a.f.) with building and improvements.	P 4,784,500.00
LRD-125 b	Mahayahay	1,150 m² interior residential lot (TCT No. T-57,199) (a.f.)	P 3,162,500.00
LAGUNA			
LJG-146	Bgy. Caingin, Sta. Rosa	642 m² residential lot (TCT No. 478025) with three (3) residential buildings and improvements.	P 2,051,400.00
MGT-166	Bo. San Antonio, San Pedro	324 m² two (2) parcels of adjoining residential lots (TCT No. 468390 and 468391).	P 907,200.00
LANAO DEL SUR			
MED-167	Along Marawi City - Tamparan National Highway, Marawi City.	64,428 m² cogonal land (TCT No. T-116)	P -260,000.00
QUEZON			
VJC-83 a	Bo. Cabuguang, Tagkawayan	203,088 m² lot (TCT No. T-367909)	P 4,569,500.00
VJC-83 b	Bo. Cabuguang, Tagkawayan	205,758 m² lot (TCT No. T-367910)	P 4,115,200.00
RIZAL			
MBL-166	Lincoln Drive, Bo. Mayamot, Antipolo City	5,029 m² eight (8) parcels of lots (TCT Nos. 317013 to 317020) with unfinished residential building	P 8,500,000.00
VPI-35 a	No. 3 Ursula St., Milagros Subd., Bo. Dalig, Antipolo City	302 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-324296) with building and improvements	P 601,000.00
CHATTELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
VCP-78	Bldg. #2, MIRDC Compound, Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig, M.M.	Various machinery and equipment (10 units) for manufacture of semi-conductors.	P 15,900.00 to P 683,100.00 (per unit)
VCP-53	FCIE Compound, Brgy. Langcaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Various machinery and equipment (11 units) for fabrication of bolts and nuts	P 16,100.00 to P 476,400.00 (per unit)
MGT-168	De Leon Hospital Compound, Provincial Road, Paombong, Bulacan	One (1) unit Light Truck, Isuzu diesel engine, model 4BEI.	P 45,000.00

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:

892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L;
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2144 for Code starting with V; and
815-1450 or 818-9511 loc. 2139 for Code starting with M;

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI--Feb. 12 & 13, 2002)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

One (1) Year Term Contract for Brokerage Services and for the Preparation, Notarization and Documentation of Import Entry Declaration (IED) from May 1, 2002 to May 1, 2003 with the following Pre-bid and Bid Opening schedules:

SCHEDULE	PRE-BID Date/Time	BID OPENING Date/Time
SCHEDULE I - Air	March 22, 2002/2:00 PM	April 4, 2002/10:00 AM
SCHEDULE II - Ocean	March 22, 2002/2:00 PM	April 4, 2002/2:00 PM
SCHEDULE III - IED	March 22, 2002/2:00 PM	April 4, 2002/3:00 PM

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above schedules which shall be opened publicly at the Warehousing, Traffic, Transshipment and Disposal Section (WTTDS), NL-GENCO-2, National Power Corporation, 4th Basement, Plaza Natalia Bldg., 51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City.

Eligibility documents will be issued from Feb. 11-22, 2002 at WTTDS office upon presentation & submission of a Letter of Intent, Certification of Government registration and Customs Brokers License and payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00. Deadline of submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility documents, forms & statement shall be on Feb. 27, 2002, up to 5:00 PM only (official time is WTTDS clock).

Bid documents are available for eligible bidders on Mar.11-15, 2002 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per schedule, presentation of valid Certificate of Eligibility, and NPC Supplier's number (DCE). Deadline of submission of bid documents shall be not later than 10:00 AM (official time is WTTDS clock) of April 4, 2002.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect found therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

All inquiries regarding the above should be addressed in writing to the undersigned at National Power Corporation, Plaza Natalia Bldg., 51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City or at fax no. 074-445-4545.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. A. A. PADAEN**
Manager, H.R. & Admin. Services Division
GENCO2

(PDI – Feb. 8 & 13, 2002)

National Power Corporation
Small Power Utilities Group
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

For the SALE of UNSERVICEABLE ITEMS
"as is, where is"
Date of Bid Opening : February 25, 2002

ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
HULL BODY - consists of unserviceable/junk hull body of NPC Power Barge 112 located/ docked at Naga, Cebu Year Mld.: 1992 Dimensions of Barge: Length : 24.58 meters Breadth : 10.37 meters Depth : 2.60 meters Draft : 1.8 meters	P 1,734,300.00

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 10:00 AM on **February 25, 2002** at the NPC-SPUG Office, 2/F Training Center Bldg., NPC-OBC, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Q.C. and shall then and there be opened and publicly read.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE; and
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2000) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)
3. CERTIFICATE OF SITE INSPECTION ISSUED BY THE MANAGER, SPBOD, SPUG-VISAYAS.

Additional information, request for inspection and bid forms at P50.00 per set may be secured from Ms. P. F. VICTORIA at the above address or call tel. No. 9228449/ 9213541 Local 5583. Deadline for the issuance of bid forms is 1:00 PM on **February 22, 2002.**

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest.

SPUG ASSET MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

(Sgd.) **R. C. CASTILLO**
Chairman

(PDI--Feb. 11, 12 & 13, 2002)

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Tel. No. 435-3366 or 920-5521 loc. 3600 / Fax No. 928-2303

INVITATION TO BID FOR DISPOSAL OF MATERIALS

Gentlemen:

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) is inviting all interested parties to participate in the ***bidding for the disposal of various excess (unused) fittings.***

Bid documents can be secured at the MWSI-Purchasing Department, MWSS Building, Basement, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

Actual inspection of the items can be made from **February 13-22, 2002** in coordination with the MWSI Purchasing Department.

Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope to the Purchasing Department *on or before* ***February 27, 2002 (Monday); 5:00 p.m.*** Award will be based on the highest bid received.

MWSI reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason/s, waive any and all informalities therein, and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the MWSI.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ**
AVP, Corporate Logistics

(PDI - Feb. 13 & 14, 2002)

OBITUARIES

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

Our Dearly Beloved

JUSTINA (USTE) SANCON BAUTISTA

of San Pablo City and Victoria, Laguna
Peacefully joined our Lord on February 11, 2002
at the age of 80.

Her loving children **Elsa, Cesar** and **Corazon, Dr. Daniel** and **Lilia** and **Cornelio** together with grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Vesco Subdivision, San Pablo City, Mass at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, February 16, 2002 at San Pablo Cathedral.

Interment will follow at San Pablo Memorial Park.

FOR YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS REQUIREMENTS, CALL OUR CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISING HOTLINES: HEAD OFFICE: 897-8808 loc. 514, 516, 899-4425; 897-2535; 897-8425 (Telefax); **CUBAO:** 912-9008 to 11 (Aurora); **MAKATI:** 892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370; **KALAW:** 526-0213; 527-3342; **MEGAMALL:** 635-0219, 635-0220

Julita (Lita) Reyes Sta. Romana

Peacefully joined our Creator
on February 5, 2002
In Davenport, Iowa, U.S.A., at the age of 80.

Her bereaved daughter **Josefina (Effie) Hall**; son **Ismael**; son-in-law **Robin Hall**; daughters-in-law **Leilane Uriarte** and **Regina Manag**; grandchildren **Julie, Timothy, Amanda, Daniel,** and **Michelle**; sister **Elena D. Reyes**; cousin **Col. Stefani Domingo**, and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

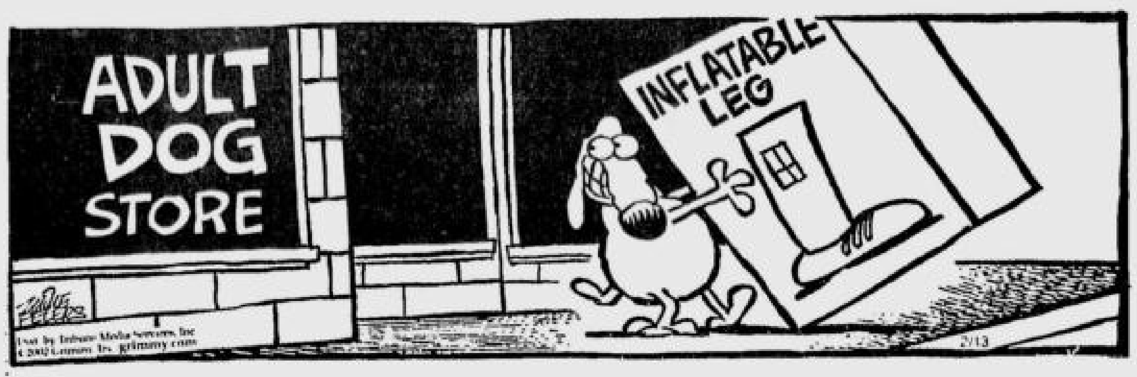
Lita was preceded in death by her husband **Osmundo** (O.O.) Sta. Romana in 1997; son **Elpidio** in 1996 and her sister **Mercedes D. Reyes** in 1986.

Her body has been cremated. A Catholic funeral service was held in Davenport, and a Memorial Mass will be celebrated at a later date in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Her family may be emailed at RememberingLita@aol.com. Memorials may be made to Davenport Good Samaritan Center, 700 Waverly Road, Davenport, Iowa 52804, USA.

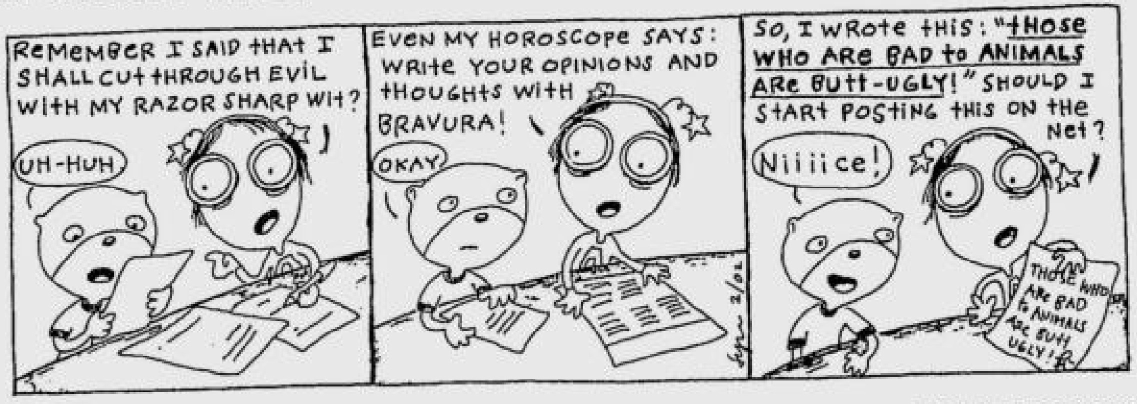
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


ADULT DOG STORE
INFLATABLE LEG
2/13

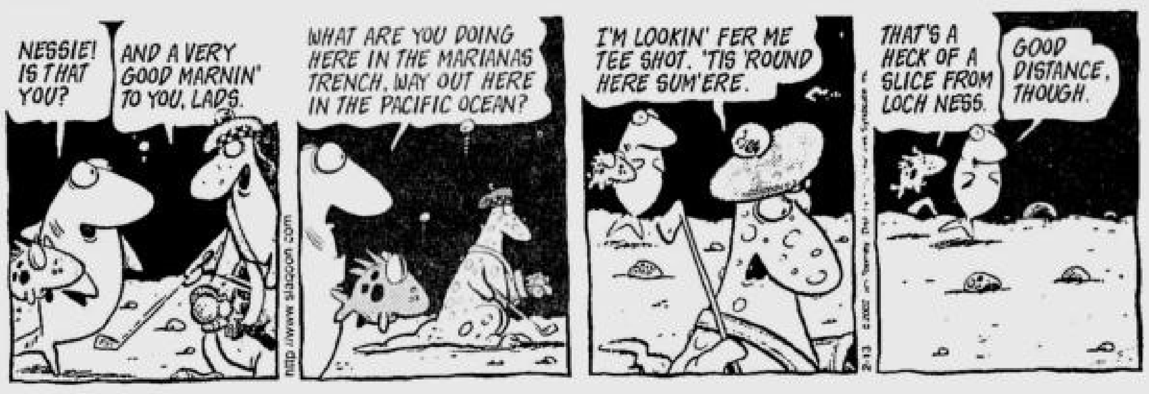
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


REMEMBER I SAID THAT I SHALL CUT THROUGH EVIL WITH MY RAZOR SHARP WIT?
UH-HUH
EVEN MY HOROSCOPE SAYS: WRITE YOUR OPINIONS AND THOUGHTS WITH BRAVURA!
OKAY
SO, I WROTE THIS: "THOSE WHO ARE BAD TO ANIMALS ARE BUTT-UGLY!" SHOULD I START POSTING THIS ON THE NET?
Niiiice!
THOSE WHO ARE BAD TO ANIMALS ARE BUTT UGLY!

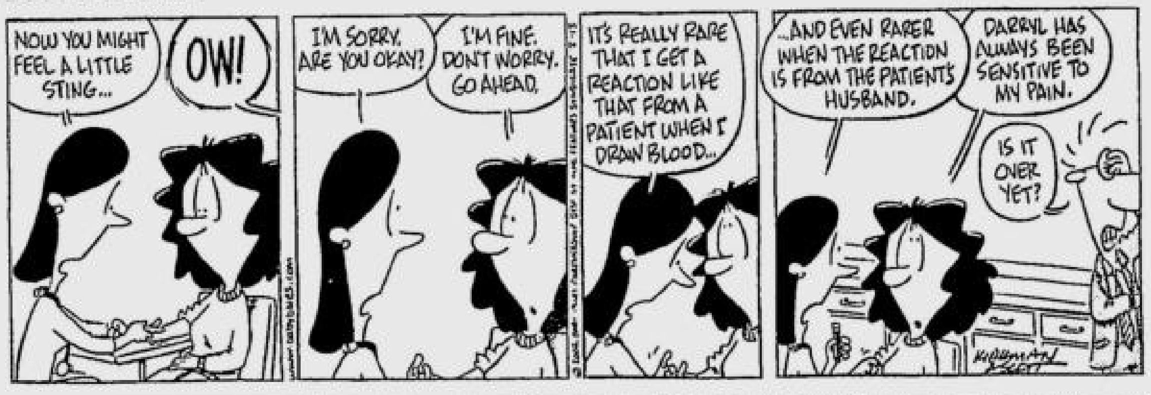
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


NESSIE! IS THAT YOU?
AND A VERY GOOD MARNIN' TO YOU, LADS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE IN THE MARIANAS TRENCH, WAY OUT HERE IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN?
I'M LOOKIN' FER ME TEE SHOT. 'TIS 'ROUND HERE SUM'ERE.
THAT'S A HECK OF A SLICE FROM LOCH NESS.
GOOD DISTANCE, THOUGH.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


NOW YOU MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE STING...
OW!
I'M SORRY. ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE. DON'T WORRY. GO AHEAD.
IT'S REALLY RARE THAT I GET A REACTION LIKE THAT FROM A PATIENT WHEN I DRAW BLOOD...
...AND EVEN RARER WHEN THE REACTION IS FROM THE PATIENT'S HUSBAND.
DARRYL HAS ALWAYS BEEN SENSITIVE TO MY PAIN.
IS IT OVER YET?

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peter Gabriel, Stockard Channing, Jerry Springer

Happy Birthday: Your unique ideas will transpire into moneymaking pursuits this year. You will do well in fields that are unusual in some way. You must follow what you know in your heart is best for you. Your numbers are 9, 14, 17, 23, 34, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Find a way to improve your home. You can make a difference to loved ones if you are flexible.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can ask for favors today but don't push your luck. Expect to give something back in return. New friendships will develop if you take part in worthwhile events.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If you don't take the time to regain your strength you will become emotional and upset over events and comments that wouldn't normally bother you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You need to venture out into the world. Familiarize yourself with different cultural backgrounds and you will discover all sorts of interesting information.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Think about what you are doing to yourself. It's time to get back on track and take better care of yourself. Smart eating and exercise will make a world of difference.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Partnerships may be a little tense today, but if you are honest and caring you should be able to keep things running smoothly. Talk to a close friend about personal problems.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make an effort to get to know your colleagues better. If you can get the support of those you work with, you can make a difference to your professional future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You've been working too hard and it's time for you to get out and have some fun. An intimate dinner with a few good friends will give you something to think about. The conversations you have today could change your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will face opposition if you have been avoiding a personal issue with a family member or close friend. A sincere apology will help to resolve past problems.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your friendship will be valued today. Offer sound advice and you will receive loyalty in return. Partnerships will lead to interesting opportunities as well as new acquaintances.

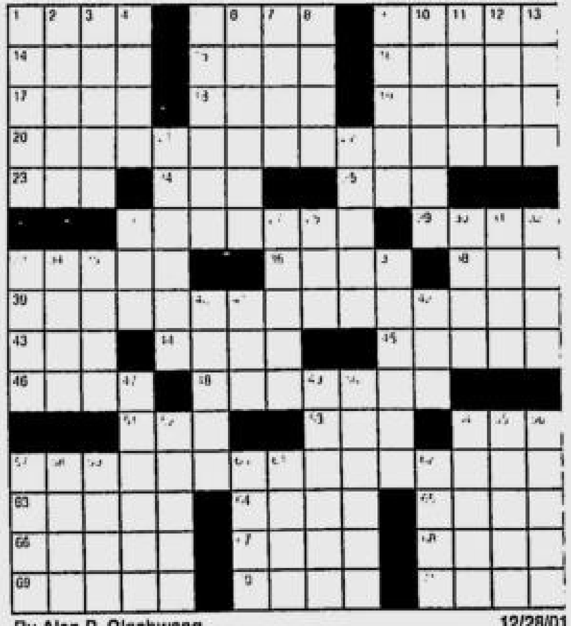
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stop spending your money on all sorts of trivial things and start to save for your future. Don't be too willing to let someone else take care of your finances.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may be emotional today if things don't go according to plan. Don't let someone you work with confuse you or send you in the wrong direction. Do your own research and refuse to let anything you hear cause upset and poor reactions.

Birthday Baby: You work well with others. You are quite willing to make sacrifices and compromise in order to have everything around you run smoothly. You need to have a pleasant environment in order to be happy.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

12/28/01

ACROSS
1 Decree
5 Hourglass fill
9 Typical Wisconsin farm
14 "Picnic" playwright
15 Needle case
16 Unworldly
17 Sisters
18 Greek letters
19 Bakery byproduct
20 Don New Year's Eve duds
23 Put in stitches
24 Put in stitches
25 Turn right!
26 Party planner
29 Lose one's cool
33 Rose extract
36 Wide-spouted pitcher
38 Important time
39 Midnight acts
43 Patriotic women's grp.
44 Koran chapter
45 Morsels
46 Gator's kin
48 Allied by kinship
51 Wallach or Whitney
53 Rocky peak
54 Some French?
57 New Year's Day excess
63 Senior
64 Extended family member
65 First part of a play
66 Like a hermit
67 Kind of estate
68 Compare prices
69 Trading centers
70 French she
71 Painter Holbein

DOWN
1 Discovers
2 Harden
3 VP Spiro
4 Hardy heroine
5 Group of seven
6 Comfortable
7 Nevers night
8 Culinary concoction
9 Diplomat Silas
10 Eagle quarters
11 Presser's device
12 Frost
13 Some voice votes
21 Raised notes
22 White heron
26 Variable motion maker
27 Of the kidneys
28 Ram's mate
30 Brooding place
31 Comic Johnson
32 Montana spiral?
33 Aussie rock grp.
34 __ she blows!
35 Poi root
37 Bly or Bloch
40 Of gold
41 Coll. seniors' test
42 Helping hand
47 Permanently affix
49 Unmelodious
50 Walk at a leisurely pace
52 Tackle-box items
54 Russian villa
55 John the singer
56 Loses one's footing
57 Sports group
58 Earthenware pot
59 Olfactory stimulant
60 Fabled also-ran
61 Combustible stuff
62 Crushing blow

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

V	A	T	S	■	S	P	A	T	S	■	H	I	L	T
A	S	A	P	■	O	R	I	O	N	■	O	D	O	R
S	O	L	O	■	F	O	N	D	A	■	M	A	L	E
T	R	A	N	S	I	S	T	O	R	■	I	S	L	E
■	■	■	S	O	A	P	■	■	L	E	N	■	■	■
B	A	T	O	N	■	E	O	N	■	R	I	C	H	E
R	U	H	R	■	S	C	R	E	E	N	D	O	O	R
A	R	E	■	P	O	T	A	G	E	S	■	A	R	A
W	A	T	E	R	C	O	L	O	R	■	A	S	S	T
L	I	A	N	O	■	R	S	T	■	G	E	T	T	O
■	■	■	E	A	T	■	■	I	G	O	R	■	■	■
S	T	E	M	■	E	L	S	A	L	V	A	D	O	R
T	A	X	I	■	M	O	T	T	O	■	T	O	N	E
O	P	I	E	■	P	R	I	O	R	■	O	V	E	N
P	E	T	S	■	T	E	R	R	Y	■	R	E	S	T

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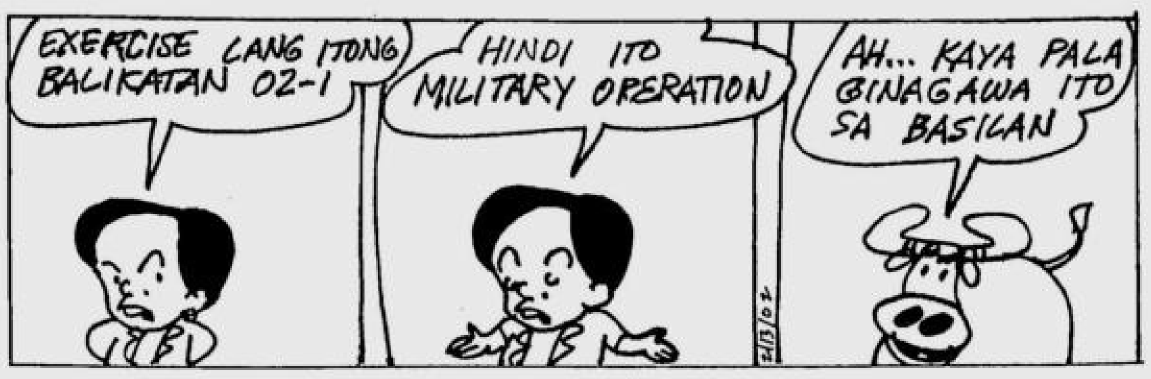
12/28/01

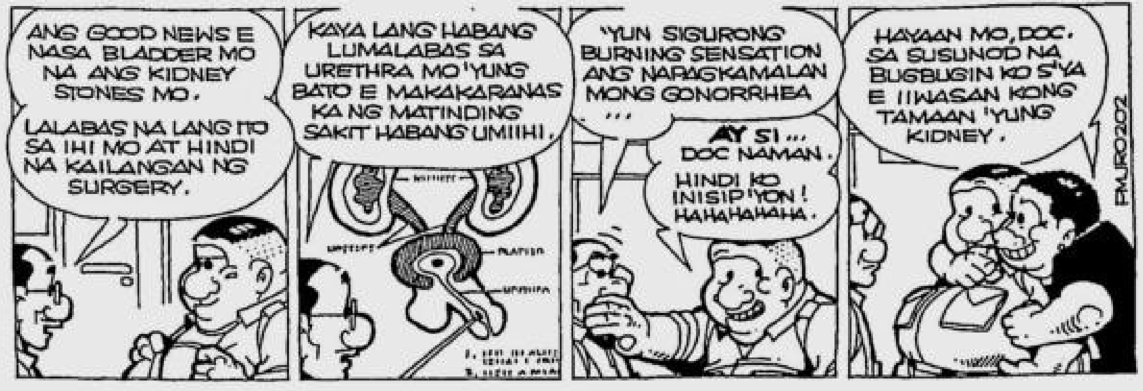
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


EXERCISE LANG ITONG BALIKATAN 02-1
HINDI ITO MILITARY OPERATION
AH... KAYA PALA GINAGAWA ITO SA BASILAN
2/13/02

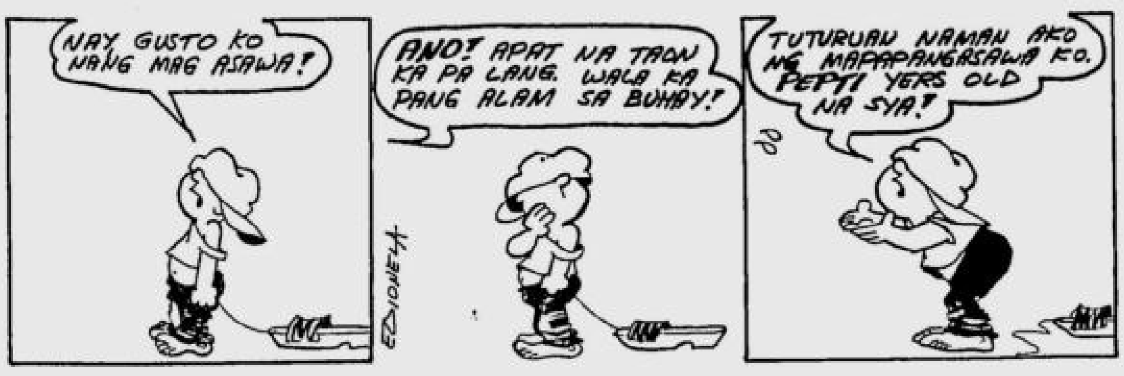
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG GOOD NEWS E NASA BLADDER MO NA ANG KIDNEY STONES MO.
LALABAS NA LANG ITO SA IHI MO AT HINDI NA KAILANGAN NG SURGERY.
KAYA LANG HABANG LUMALABAS SA URETHRA MO 'YUNG BATO E MAKAKARANAS KA NG MATINDING SAKIT HABANG UMIIHI.
'YUN SIGURONG BURNING SENSATION ANG NAPAGKAMALAN MONG GONORRHEA ...
AY SI... DOC NAMAN.
HINDI KO INISIP 'YON! HAHAHAHAHA.
HAYAAN MO, DOC. SA SUSUNOD NA BUGBUGIN KO S'YA E IIWASAN KONG TAMAAN 'YUNG KIDNEY.
PMJR0202

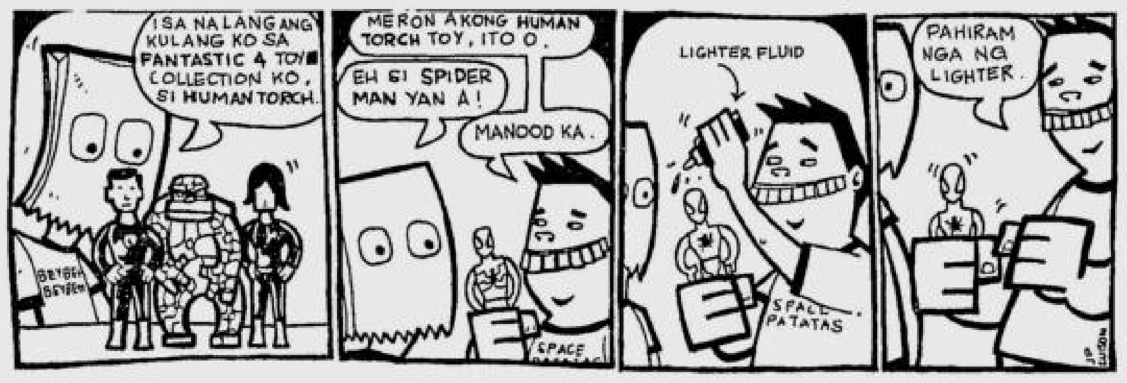
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAY GUSTO KO NANG MAG ASAWA!
ANO! APAT NA TAON KA PA LANG. WALA KA PANG ALAM SA BUHAY!
TUTURUAN NAMAN AKO NG MAPAPANGASAWA KO. PEPTI YERS OLD NA SYA!
EDIONELA

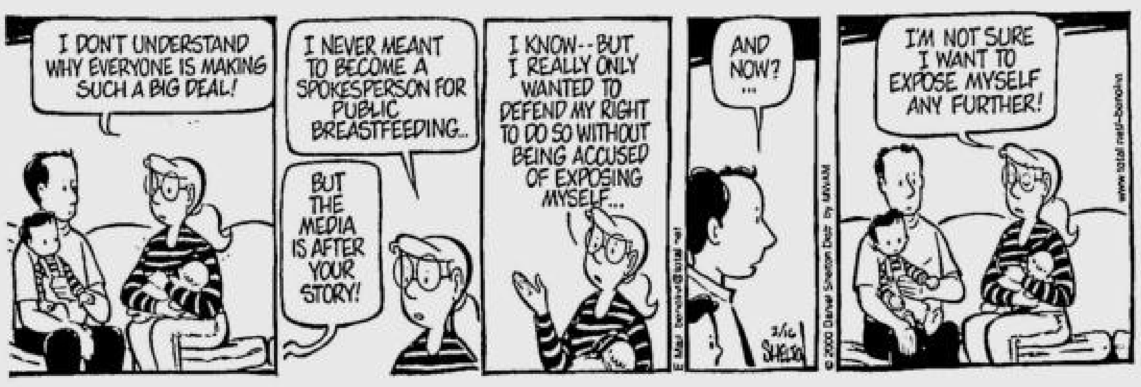
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


ISA NA LANG ANG KULANG KO SA FANTASTIC 4 TOY COLLECTION KO, SI HUMAN TORCH.
MERON AKONG HUMAN TORCH TOY, ITO O.
EH SI SPIDER MAN YAN A!
MANOOD KA.
LIGHTER FLUID
SPACE PATATAS
PAHIRAM NGA NG LIGHTER.
JP CUISON

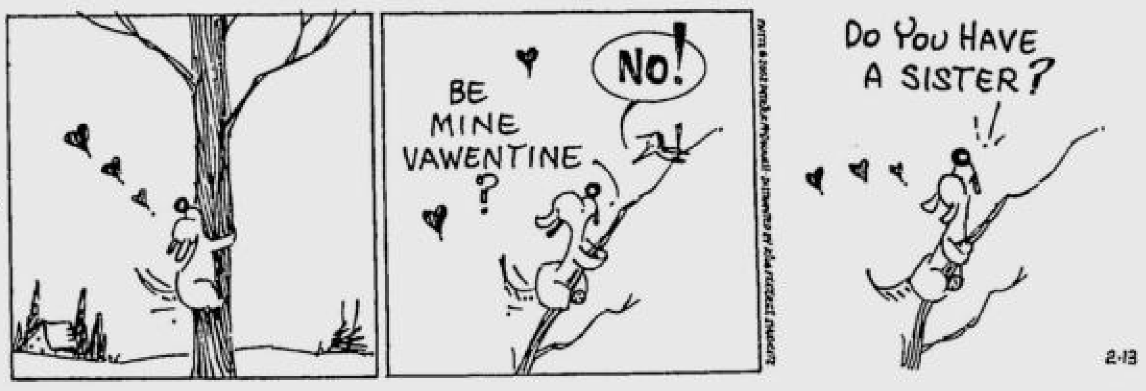
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY EVERYONE IS MAKING SUCH A BIG DEAL!
I NEVER MEANT TO BECOME A SPOKESPERSON FOR PUBLIC BREASTFEEDING..
BUT THE MEDIA IS AFTER YOUR STORY!
I KNOW--BUT I REALLY ONLY WANTED TO DEFEND MY RIGHT TO DO SO WITHOUT BEING ACCUSED OF EXPOSING MYSELF...
AND NOW? ...
I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO EXPOSE MYSELF ANY FURTHER!

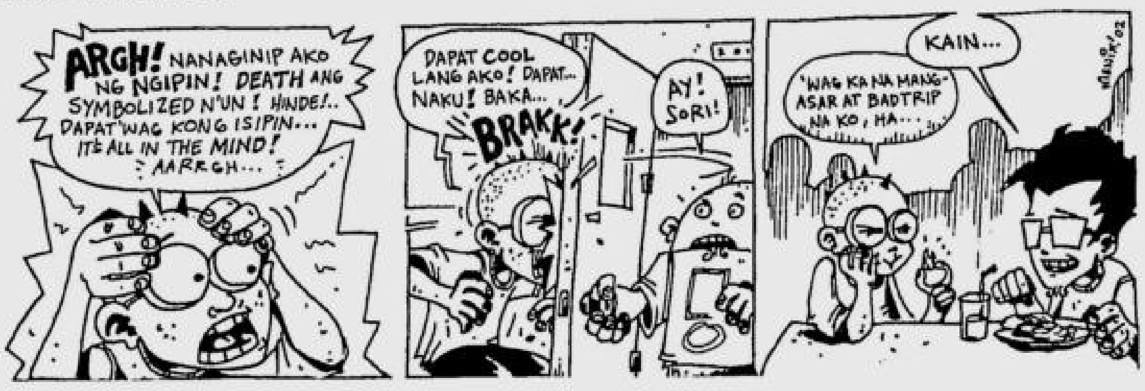
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BE MINE VAWENTINE ?
No!
Do You HAVE A SISTER?
2-13

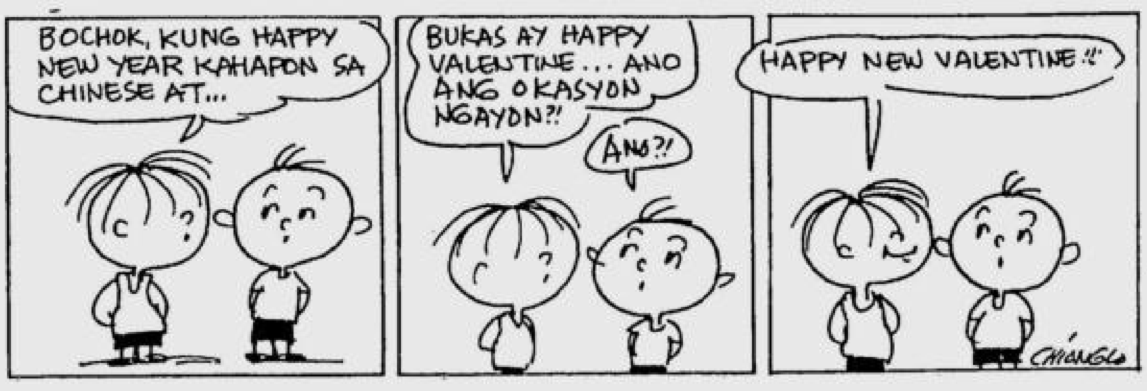
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ARGH! NANAGINIP AKO NG NGIPIN! DEATH ANG SYMBOLIZED N'UN! HINDE!.. DAPAT 'WAG KONG ISIPIN... IT'S ALL IN THE MIND! AARRGH...
DAPAT COOL LANG AKO! DAPAT... NAKU! BAKA...
BRAKK!
AY! SORI!
'WAG KA NA MANG-ASAR AT BADTRIP NA KO, HA...
KAIN...

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BOCHOK, KUNG HAPPY NEW YEAR KAHAPON SA CHINESE AT...
BUKAS AY HAPPY VALENTINE... ANO ANG OKASYON NGAYON?!
ANO?!
HAPPY NEW VALENTINE!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

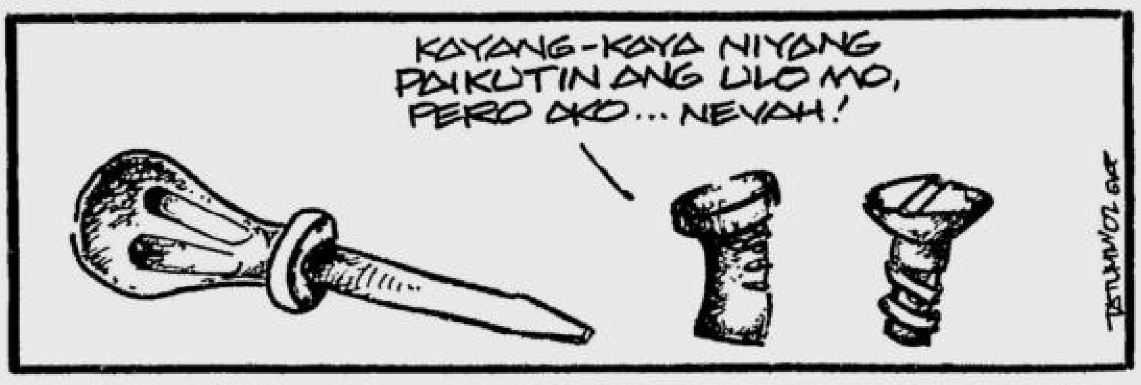

KAYANG-KAYA NIYANG PAIKUTIN ANG ULO MO, PERO AKO... NEVAH!

PHOTO BY ROMY HOMILLADA

PARTNERS FOR PEOPLE AT WORK LIVE! SEMINAR SERIES 2002

Seated from left are: Brenda Cabel, Adobo Interactive; Synx Elma, Lubid, Inc.; Moje Aquino, Paradigms & Paradoxes Consultants; PDI chair Marixi R. Prieto; Lirio Mapa, Center for Leadership and Change, Inc.; An Mercado-Alcantara, Vinky Abalos, ABS-CBN Publishing. Standing from left are: PDI SVP for Sales and Marketing Rene R. Reinoso; Mary Ann Go, Singles Search Phils.; Jose Mari del Rosario, Leny Fabul, Microtel Inn and Suites; Babst Reyes, Optimus Managers and Advisors, Inc.; Mark Mackenzie, S&G International Consulting, Inc.; Daisy Marquez, IMPACT Consultancy Group; Ernie Cecilia, EC Business Solutions and Career Center; Jonathan Allwood, S&G International Consulting, Inc.; Cora Dalena, Career Systems, Inc.; Martin Vick Semilla, Lubid, Inc.; Linda Esguerra, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc.; Marino Dizon, Lubid, Inc.; Anna Testa, S&G International Consulting, Inc.; PDI HRD Head Chito San Mateo; PDI Corporate Relations Head Celine Madamba; PaW editor Regina Reyes.

Readers' thoughts on leadership

RECIPES *for* LEARNING

Moje Ramos Aquino

THANKS to our readers for sharing their thoughts on leadership as follows:

From V. Cacayan:

"I learned a lot after reading your column on 'Leaders are walkers.' I applied it to my work and it was very effective. I observed that my personnel are more responsible in their jobs after I discussed some ideas that would lead to their becoming more effective in their jobs. I also now get information direct from the lowest rank in the organization that I believe were left out by my supervisors. From now on, I spare one hour daily walking around my department as part of my job routine. Previously, I was tied up with paper and computer works. Thanks to your recipes of learning, I became very energetic. I will continue reading your column and I hope that you can also share some insights on how to motivate people to be more effective in their skills, specially the new graduates of the millennium. Thank you very much and more power to your paper. I have it daily now."

From Bro. Saldie Lie V. Resolado:

"I'm a seminarian of San Agustin here in Visayas Ave., Diliman, QC. I read your column in the INQUIRER last Jan. 29 about the traits of good leadership. It is really a good help especially to naive youngsters who have the potentials to lead the people of God.

"These traits are all expected to be found in us seminarians, in as much as sooner or later, we will lead the people of God into His Kingdom. We should develop those skills. Yes, they are skills and we need training on these skills, that is why our stay in the seminary is a bit stricter for us so that we can be molded for a mature leadership.

"We arm ourselves with good intellect that's why we are now taking our college degree in Philosophy. Most people don't know what kind of studies we have. I'd like to share this information because a leader has to be also equipped intellectually and not just have charisma, so they say.

"But because we humans have only finite knowledge, when our reasons are not enough to explain our faith, leaders like you and me, give in to faith. We resort to God's grace for us to understand. Leaders, too, must not boast too much of the personality traits that they treasure knowing well that these are all limited gifts. We must give due thanks to the One who gives these to us. This is part of the humble attitude of a leader; he shows not only a meekness of his own but also a weakness that he is only human. God listens and assists those who consider themselves meek and humble.

"What I wish to relay to you is that leadership, as a gift itself, is God given; it is not an overnight masterpiece. One who has it should also have humility. Being God-fearing adds success to leadership.

"This is my first time to give an opinion article so I hope you will take it as just an opinion of one of the people who leads and asks also to be led. By the way, I'm a graduating college-seminarian and when I'll be able to pass our evaluation, I will proceed to Talisay, Cebu, to continue my Formation year as a novice. Please pray also for my vocation."

Indeed, our talents and intellect are God-given. Leadership is how to use such talents and intellect to realize our full potential and fulfill our mission here on earth and help others, too. Let us continue our Recipe for Leadership and our discussions of the nine leadership competencies suggested by authors Patricia Guggenheimer and Maria Diana Szulc in the book, "Understanding Leadership Competencies" next week.

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com*)*

I'm caught...

(From page B12)

Personally, I am satisfied with how my immediate supervisor supervises me. I am still fortunate to have a job and better salary and benefits compared to those who have no jobs, especially nowadays when a stable job is very difficult to find.

On the other hand, I am afraid to resign from union membership since I don't know what will happen in the future when I might need a union to help me.

My husband said that I should choose only one side. If I cannot support the union's activities, I should resign as a member. Can I do that? Is it okay for me to be passive in the union and just continue with my work in the office? I want to focus on helping students who will likely be affected if I don't do my job. Meantime, I hope and pray. Only God knows how to resolve my problem.

Ambivalent Union Member

Being and feeling "stuck at the middle" can be very stressful. I remember in my earlier career when I reported to two bosses who did not see eye to eye and who would give me conflicting directions. I reached the point where I burnt out. I tried redefining and clarifying roles. I thought I could act as a bridge between the two of them. But their styles, orientations and attitudes towards people were poles apart. Then, I decided that I should simply do my work and learn from the day-to-day choices that I had to make. At the same time, I kept myself open to other work possibilities. I decided to move out at the right time.

Stephen Covey tells us to focus on the things we can control or influence. He also talks about not wasting time on the things that are in the circle of concern that you cannot influence. In my mind, what you can influence and control in this case is your self. Why not pursue higher education while in the university? And then find a job that would help you reach your aspiration to be a supervisor or manager. This way, you get a sense of movement and freedom.

On the legal side, Atty. Edwin Lacierda says that the 1987 Constitution and the Labor Code guarantee the right of workers to self-organization or union formation. Generally, where a rank-and-file union exists in the workplace, the union will require that an employee acquires or continues to retain his/her membership in the union as a condition for employment. This is called union security. On this basis, the union has the right to demand from management that it terminates any employee who refuses to join or resigns from the union. However, if the university promotes you to either a supervisory or managerial position, you are considered resigned from the union and may continue your employment.

Meantime, it would be prudent for you to remain with the union. Meantime, prayer and strong faith are strong foundations for managing stress in these trying time.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

How to handle working moms' guilt trips

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

GATHER two or three working moms together and what do you get? A guilt powwow. There's Shen, the bank executive, who felt torn between attending a PTA meeting at her daughter's school and a workshop she was spearheading at the office. There's Pinky, worried that she's shortchanging her son by pushing back his study time to beyond his bedtime because she can't leave the office early enough. Their hearts are split, their minds in a bind. What to do when you're on the brink of a guilt meltdown?

Step back and listen. Your guilt is not blaming nor judging you, it is simply telling you that your balance may be off. Use your guilt as guide.

- When you feel guilty, don't react to the feeling, respond to the situation. Break down the problem and see your way through. For Shen, she called her daughter's school, explained her situation, and asked for another appointment.
- Be wary of taking the easy way out. Often, this simply glosses over the guilt but doesn't restore balance. Many parents feel so guilty about not being there for the kids, they make up by over indulging or being too lax. This won't be good for you nor the kids.
- Be willing to take on some lifestyle changes. If the guilt persists and escalates, if it prevents you from functioning normally, it usually means you're carrying too much, you have to pare down, simplify. The path to a balanced life is always a call to a simpler life.

AG RODRIGUEZ

Connie Balmaceda, HR Manager at Publicis-AMA, shared these anti-meltdown tips for working moms:

"As a young girl, I was taught to save for the rainy day. So save I did. I gave up the occasional chocolate bar and those dainty ribbons or clips, just so I can compete with my ten brothers and sisters on who had the most savings in the bank. Now that I am a wife and a mother of five, the pressure of saving has become more real and intense. And that 'rainy day' seems to come more often. Still, I've learned how to cope with them by anticipating the needs of my kids.

- I make sure to keep my supplies cabinet stocked with the following: bond, art, graphing, poster, and crepe papers (of all colors); crayons; blue, black, and red ballpens; no. 1, no, 2 and colored pencils. Plus, I get long and short ordinary or sliding folders; brown or plastic envelopes; *cartolina* of all colors; illustration boards of all sizes. My kids can even ask for a picture or biography of a hero, a past president, or a saint, and I will have it. I can also pull out a list of riddles and tongue twisters, or even an *alamat*, in a jiffy.
- I keep a file of our photos that may be needed in school: ID photos 1x 1 or 2x2, family, special occasion and vacations.
- I also have a file of certified true copies of birth, baptismal, or marriage certificates; also, insurance papers that have to be presented immediately.
- In my bag, I keep a record of my children's measurements and foot sizes, and a measuring tape, just in case.
- We keep stock of our favorite food ingredients just in case we have a sudden craving for carbonara or German sausage.

"Don't get me wrong. I am neither obsessive nor compulsive nor really organized. I have just found a way to make life more comfortable and peaceful because I have learned to save for the rainy day."

If you'd like to share your own working mom survival tricks and tales, write to me at *workingmom@pinoycentral.com.*

(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor-in-chief of the magazine Metro Working Mom (MWM) published monthly by ABS-CBN Publishing. Read more tips on the working mom's balancing act in this month's issue of MWM with Rosemarie and Cherie Gil on the cover.)

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PEOPLE at WORK

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** *Subsection Editor* **Regina Galang Reyes**

'I'm caught between the union and management'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM a rank-and-file employee at a university in Manila for six years now. I enjoy reading your articles in People at Work. It helps me a lot in enriching my knowledge about managing and supervising people, solving problems and others. It also gives me hope that someday, I will soon be able to move to a better position and practice all that I have learned.

Last September, our union started negotiating for our CBA. However, the demands of our union and the stand of the management did not meet. We failed to convince management to negotiate further. The union filed a notice of strike with DOLE. It was not approved. The union officers and some members saw that the reason presented by DOLE was not fair. So, the officers requested the members to join the noise barrage and picketing, after office hours.

So, what's my problem? Well, I feel stuck between the union and management.

AG RODRIGUEZ

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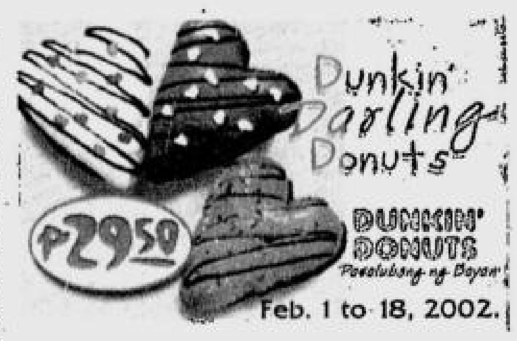
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Plus: Find out the winning couples in the 2bU!-Power Plant Valentine's Blowout.

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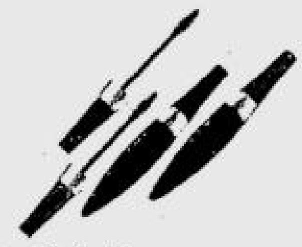
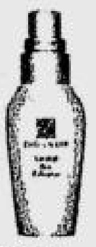

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Couples of all colors

2bU! celebrates this Valentine's Day by peering into the lives of different young couples. Enter the seven pairs who have beaten the odds. In this day and age, staying together is a feat in itself

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She's Pinoy, he's French but they're always on the same wavelength

In interracial relationships, foreign languages come in handy

Interview by Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondent

Joni Lim, 18 (Chinese-Filipino) and Fabien Ricard, 18 (French-Italian), both of the University of Southern California

How long have you been together?

Fabien: It will be around 4 months and it has been the most amazing 4 months of our lives. But then again, how can you put a time [frame] on love?

Joni: For crying out loud, Fabien, stop being so cheesy!

How did you guys meet?

F: Since Joni has something against my brilliant cheesiness, I will be more "*nakaka-antok*" for this next question. We met at a school newspaper meeting. Well, technically, we met outside because I was too hesitant to talk to her. While we were walking back to our dorms, she started the conversation while I was eating pizza. She found the meeting weird and she told me so. Not surprisingly... since weird and Joni are synonymous to each other. Such a difficult girl. Her mom must have a handful!

What's the best thing about each other?

Both: Underneath all of our flaws, there must be something good. Yes, we are both very cynical. People can always hear us say, "Valentine's is such a cheesy holiday." Sarcasm is a trait we share. Simply said, we are always on the same wavelength.

What are your pet names for each other?

F: She keeps on calling me "*panget,*" whatever that means. But as for me, I call her Little Joni.

J: I call him "*panget*"—thank God he doesn't know Filipino! In interracial relationships, foreign languages come in handy. I can't get a word edgewise, though, when he speaks French. Oh well, what goes around comes around. Tagalog rules.

Complete the sentence. She/He is my__________.

F: She is my shooting star. I was blessed to find her.

J: He is my annoying buddy. His capacity for cheesiness is almost overwhelming.

What is your most memorable moment?

J: Hahahahaha. "Where there is a will, there is a way." [It's our] inside joke. One word... think "constipation"... we leave the rest to your imagination.

E-mail the author at chloe-dominique@yahoo.com

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High school love without the fluff

By Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

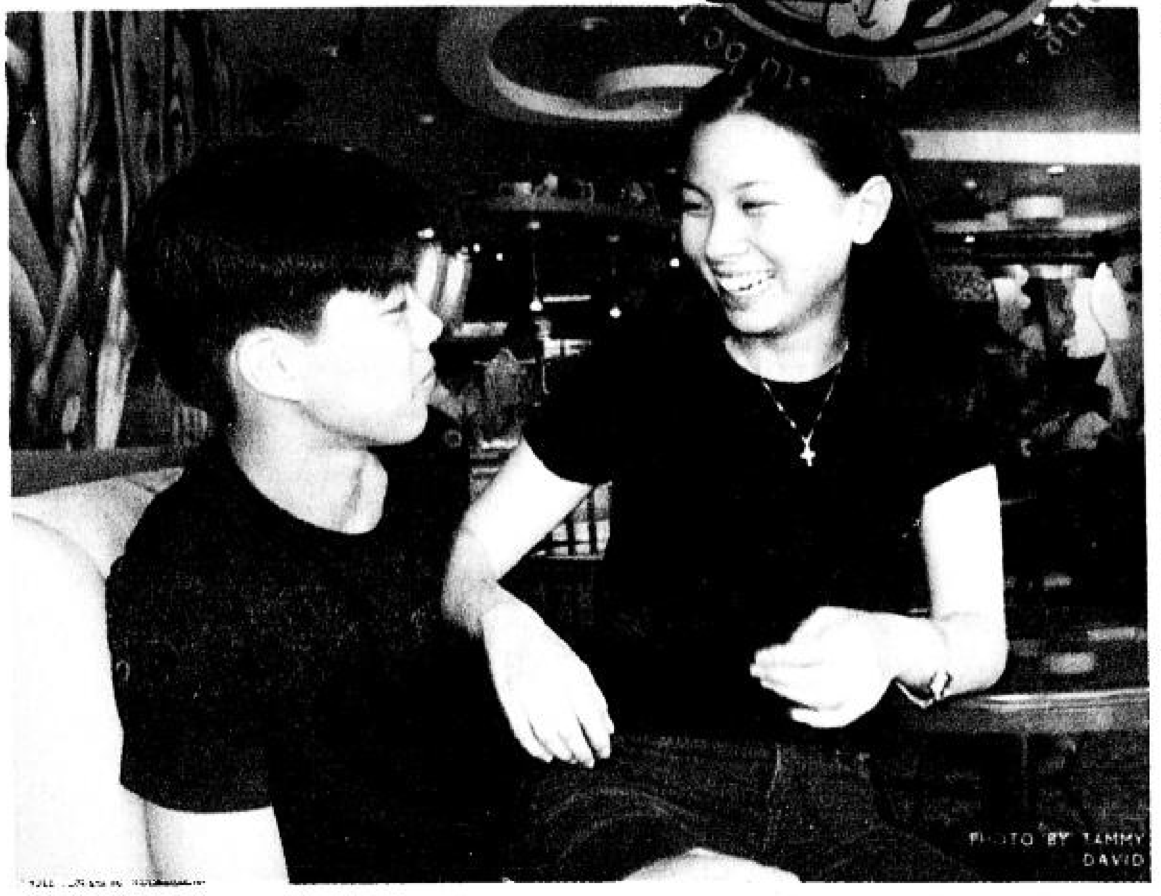


PHOTO BY TAMMY DAVID

WHEN I think of high school couples, the first thing that comes to my mind is the phrase "very cheesy." I guess the adolescents-in-love nowadays pick it up from American teen movies or young romance novels.

But in the case of 17-year-olds Royce Ang and Lorraine Cuyekeng, being a high school couple without the fluff is way better. What makes Royce and Lorr, who have been girlfriend-boyfriend for two years, from most high school couples is they're very *legal* (meaning not *takas*), which is rare nowadays. The two can't seem to stop laughing when recalling memorable moments and admitting being untraditional.

How did you guys meet?

Lorraine (L): Through mutual friends.

Courtship was mostly on? Text? Phone calls?

L: Text messages, no phone calls. It started through text

Royce (R): It was an 11-month courtship.

Who made the first move?

L: *Siya!*

So when is the "anniv"?

R: December, no specific date

What was the "would you be my girlfriend" line?

R: *Wala.*

L: *Kaya* no specific date. There was an incident during their "Florante at Laura" video project. He invited another girl after I declined the invitation. I found out and what I did *sa sobrang inis* was I brought another guy so... *Bahala ka!* After that we didn't talk since we were both upset about it. I made the first move. I explained everything to him so *parang* I liked him back.

R: Because never *naman niya sinabi sa akin maski na bola lang kasi pakipot.*

What's the best thing about each other?

R: *Pag nag-aaway kami kahit na* we don't resolve our fights we still talk.

L: *Maraming* petty fights about really small things. No big fights. Nothing really big to be on the verge of a breakup.

R: *Liberated* siya so *parati kaming nakakaalis.*

L: Very lenient relationship, we're not that pushy. It's do your stuff and I'll do mine but at the end of the day, *kami pa rin.*

What are your pet names for each other?

Both: *Wala, eh.* (Laughs)

So what was the sweetest thing you called each other?

R: *Ako*? Baby! (Grins)

L: *Siguro*... Yeah, the same.

Complete this sentence about your partner: "She/he is my..."

R: My girlfriend.

Wow, very romantic! (Both laugh) And you, Lorr?

L: He is my cornerstone.

What's your most memorable moment?

L: First date at The Fort.

R: It was Valentine's Day after the...

L: Ateneo prom. I went there and he picked me up after which was really shameful. It's a long story, and my mom didn't want the guy to bring me home and... *Basta!*

So your mom trusted Royce?

R: (Smiles)

L: Yeah. We left at 12 midnight and it was until 1 a.m. It was a really short date and we celebrated Valentine's Day. This was three years ago. The date was funny because his ex was at the next table and I was just in slippers because my feet really hurt at that time so... The thing about everybody was... um... funny.

R: *Ang* weird *kasi* next table *sa amin yung* ex *ko*... *Basta* it was really funny.

What were the first things that you noticed about each other?

R: *Pakipot siya! Sobra!* (Lorr laughs) *Kaya parang na*-challenge ako so *mas nagustuhan ko* because of the challenge. *Mas-masarap yung* feeling.

L: Nice guy and very relaxed because the first [guy] *na nag*-court *sa akin medyo* aloof, *parang* proud, *kaya ito mas* relaxed.

What was the best thing you told each other?

L: (Thinks hard)

Wala ba?

L: *Wala, eh!*

R: *Wala ba?*

Awww. How about you Royce?

R: Umm...

L: I remember! You told me I could conquer anything!

And you Royce?

R: *Parang* I can do anything I want.

***Pareho lang*? No "You're the stars in my sky! My reason for..."**

R: Walang cheesy stuff *kasi, eh.*

So what kind of a couple are you guys?

R: Definitely not cheesy. (Both laugh)

L: Not clingy either.

Since both of you are seniors, any college plans together?

L: *Hindi pa* sure, like we planned to go to the US to study in the same school but we didn't pass the same school, so *yun.* I really wanted to study in the US and we wanted the same school *pa* so it was coincidence.

Aren't you afraid that jealousy might pop up with all the new boys and girls you will meet in college? (Lorr studies in a Chinese Catholic exclusive girls school while Royce studies in the brother school next door.)

R: *Siyempre medyo kasi parang madaming* guys so *malamang madaming mas* better *sa akin!* (Both laugh)

Awww!

L: *Ako hindi naman kasi* we've gone this far.

So what did your parents like about your partner?

L: He looks nice, *disente naman* and very polite.

Any memorable "good-shot" deed Royce did?

R: *Madami!*

L: *Madami pero* once we ate out to meet my parents and he secretly paid the bill, *yun yung naka*-good shot *yata sa* mom *ko.*

R: And *sipsip ako*, like I bring food to their place.

L: *Para sa* parents *ko* not for me! (Laughs)

R: Like during Christmas I greeted her mom, *siya hindi na.*

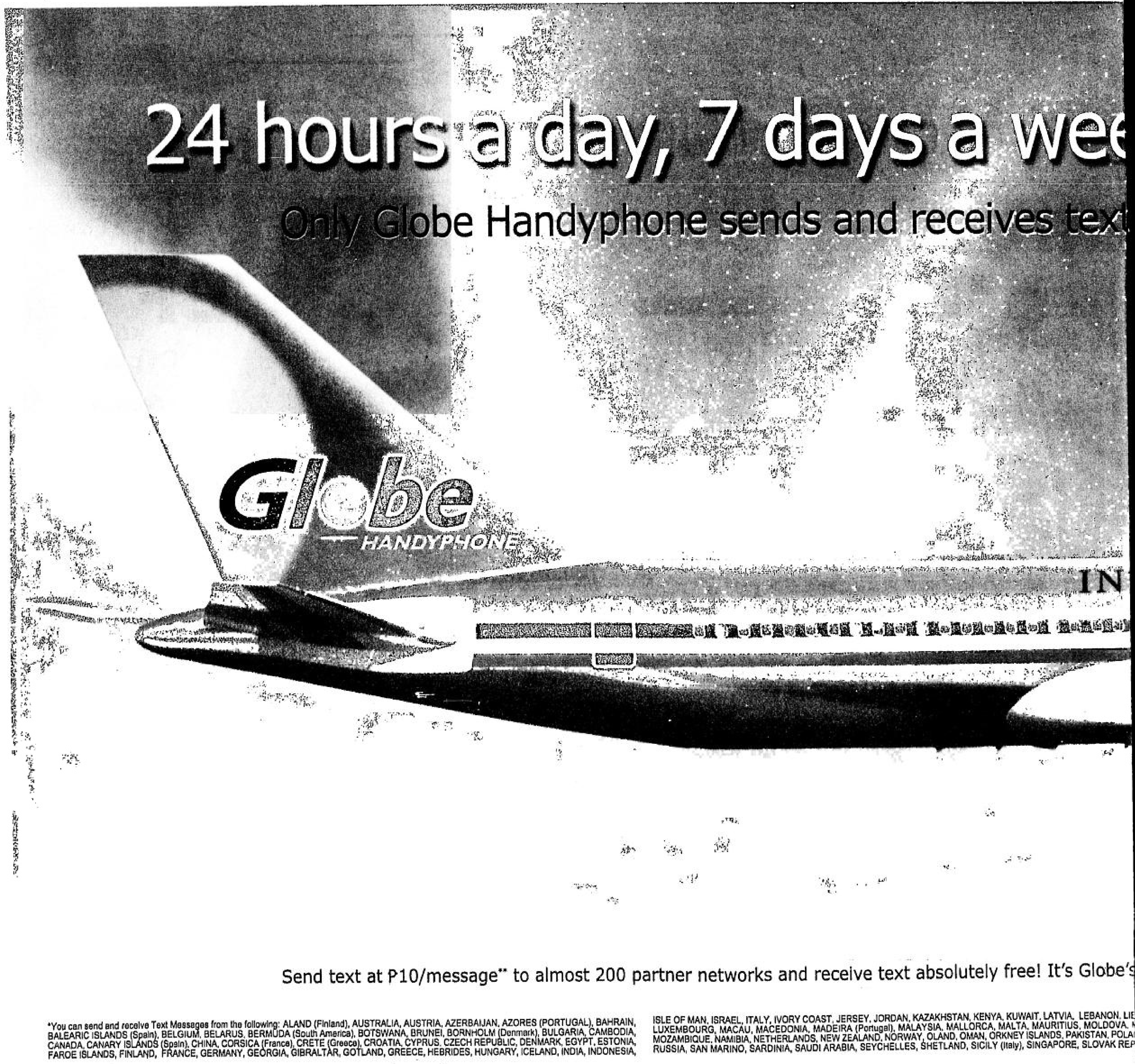
You also love the mom?

R: (Grins) Very nice lady, *at saka si* Daddy-o.

How about your parents?

R: My parents know her as someone very smart *talaga* and she helps me with my studies. I got influenced by her.

E-mail chris_trent_thom@lycos.com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They have been together for almost a year now and they're not letting anything or anyone come between them

May-December Valentine's

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

WHENEVER Paul introduces his girlfriend Dee-jay, they're always met with warm smiles and comments about how they simply look good together. But eyebrows are raised when strangers and acquaintances learn of the nine-year age difference between them (Dee-jay is 27 and Paul, 18).

Fortunately, people who really know the couple and have seen the relationship develop have accepted the pairing.

Paul and Dee-jay met for the first time early last year. Dee-jay and her siblings were looking for a new place to rent. Her brother (who was going out with Paul's cousin) suggested going to Paul's family for help. That sparks flew between Paul and Dee-jay during that first meeting was obvious to those present. Although the two were both quite shy at first, the instant attraction was undeniable.

Paul, confident about his feelings, decided to go for it. As Dee-jay was equally smitten, it didn't take long before the duo became an item. They have been together for almost a year now and they're still going strong, not letting anything or anyone come between them.

It does not take much for the couple to be happy. Every moment spent together is always special and memorable, whether it's a laugh-filled dinner or an intense heart-to-heart conversation until the wee hours of the morning.

Asked what they like most about each other, Dee-jay mentions her "Angel's" thoughtfulness, being down to earth and willingness to learn more about life. Paul simply loves each and every thing about his "baby." He can't stop raving about how extremely talented Dee-jay is in the kitchen.

For this couple—one a hotel staff member and the other a student-cum-choir guitarist and drummer—Valentine's Day is just an ordinary day. Dee-jay may whip up something sumptuous for supper while Paul strums his guitar, just to mark the occasion. The couple, however, does not need V-day to express their love for each other.

Paul and Dee-jay have shown that when there is mutual love, nothing else matters—not even age.

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com

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Globe HANDYPHONE

Butch & bewitched

By Bunny Anne Gapit
2bU! Correspondent

They conspired to teach a former boyfriend a lesson by witchcraft, but the two witches found themselves brewing love instead

SHILLY-SHALLY. At first, that was how these two girls were when asked to come out on print. The reason was apparent. "This may give our loved ones quite a bad shake," explain Jayz and Kiwi, both 22.

"It's not that we're being blatant," says Jayz. "But we're cutting the shame since we're not in any way shamming with love here."

"Besides, it's not as if we'd interest everybody," exclaims Kiwi.

Jayz has been drawn to Kiwi ever since their college days. Kiwi, on the other hand, was always impressed with Jayz's silver tongue. Both did not have cliques of their own. They became fast friends and shared a passion for the paranormal and the esoteric. Many believed they were mad.

One time after graduation, Jayz, filled with grief because her boyfriend had turned out to be gay and left her for his guy paramour, came up to Kiwi. She had wanted to settle scores with him and asked Kiwi to use witchcraft against him. To hasten the ritual, they held hands and a fire passed through their entwined palms. They then set aside their vengeful thoughts and became close.

SPELLBOUND with each other.

Many may feel revolted about these girls' behavior. However, the two couldn't care less. "We are sanguine that our fault is righted by our love in itself," says Jayz. "It's just rueful that majority of those holding us up in ridicule are the so-called Biblical ones when they know they ought not to be judgmental."

They have been together for seven months. The have pet names for each other: Wicca for Kiwi, Luna for Jayz. They also have a secret vocabulary: "*Nyam nyam*" means "I love you."

How long have you been glued to each other: Seven straight months, never a lapse greater than a day.

What you enjoy doing together: Sharing Poppycock.

Memorable moment together: Whenever Kiwi inhales Jayz's breath when the latter is asleep.

What are their peculiarities: Kiwi scratches the tip of her nose when tense, Jayz's got a constellation of moles somewhere.

How they consider each other: Soul friends.

What happened to Jayz's gay boyfriend? The question is met by shrieking.

When Chris met Jessica

By Mariless Villamar
2bU! Correspondent

CHRIS Cabuay, 27, a Web developer, and Jessica Duque-Cabuay, 23, fashion associate at Mega magazine, will have been married for a year on Feb. 17.

How did you meet?

Jessica: Through common friends.

Chris: I was looking for partners for a music project. They were friends with her friends.

J: I was busy with my thesis and when I rejoined my circle of friends, this new guy in the group [Chris] came to visit and they were all teasing us.

Best thing about each other?

J: I already liked him physically from the beginning. He dressed differently and was also in the fashion industry. He was different among all the guys. He grew up in the United States, but he's Pinoy by heart. He wasn't aggressive and this drew me closer to him. He respected me and he was open-minded. But when you're married, it changes and gets deeper.

C: She knows what I'm about and accepts it. There are three things about me: you love me, hate me or find me annoying.

Pet names for each other?

J: Baby.

CHRIS and Jessica with baby daughter Phoenix

C: I used to call her Cookie because of her eyes, and then Bear because she looks like a bear.

Complete this sentence. "S/He is my..."

J: Everything.

C: Life.

He's a Web developer. She's a fashion associate. When they met through common friends, they knew they were meant for each other

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A sense of serendipity

Text and photo by Tim Yap

FLASHBACK 1996. Then 18-year-old college dude Raymond Rufino became prom date to a 16-year-old shy Anna Palabyab. As the two were on the dance floor, the music changed to mellow and romantic. Naturally, they moved closer to each other, with Anna's face perched on Raymond's shoulder. At that moment, Raymond thought, "This feels right. I can see us being together."

At that time, Raymond felt Anna was too young (you know how college guys look at high school gals), but they kept in touch, bumping into each other at parties and through e-mail.

Fast forward 2001. Their common friend, Mike Huang, would always tease them about each other. They just broke up with their respective ex's and were enjoying the single life. They started to hang out with each other more, until last June, on their second trip to Boracay, Cupid decided to shoot the two lovebirds with his arrow.

That trip, Raymond recalls, "This is really *babaw*... We were walking toward Boracay Terraces Café. We went in and greeted her mom. The other table, not knowing that Anna's mother was the one on the other table, commented, 'Look at them—what a beautiful couple!' "

Indeed, they look great together. It's one of those Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston "it" boy and girl power couplings. "We get along; we really have fun together," says Anna of their 8-month-going-stronger relationship.

Opposites and similarities

And they don't just look great and have fun. A lot of times, they even think alike—serendipity, if you want to call it that. "One time he was in Bangkok, I in Manila. I text him a question and he text me the answer at the same time I sent the message. The thing is, he text me the answer without even seeing my question," Anna shares some fond memories.

Coincidence, maybe; psychic sense, perhaps, or they are just that connected and in touch with each other. Raymond relates, "Another time we were at Humour Post at Rockwell. We saw two posters of funny faces at opposite sides. Each of us chose one face and ended up choosing the same picture."

"The best thing about us is that we have enough differences to make it interesting and enough similarities to be harmonious—we are similar, but not the same," says Raymond of what makes their relationship click. "Even quiet moments together, we enjoy very much," quips Anna. Yes, opposites may attract, but similarities endure.

ARAGORN and Arwen bring magic into each other's lives.

The picture that appears on this page, taken by this writer during "The Lord of the Rings"-themed birthday celebration of Raymond's cousin Amanda, has Anna wearing an Arwen costume—the same gown she wore during prom night, their first date. She told Raymond that night: "This dress, I have only worn twice—both times with you." Blush, blush.

So what keeps them together? "It's hard to explain. It was a feeling I had even before we were together. It's this quiet knowledge that we have, even if we are just sitting down, hanging out... It just feels... right."

What's the best thing about each other?

Anna: The best thing about Raymond is he keeps the child within him. He loves to learn and discover new things. He's always true and appreciates even the little things in life.

Raymond: On the outside, her smile. On the inside, her spirit—good-natured with a joy for life.

S/He is my...

He is my best friend. She is my confidant and companion.

What are your most memorable moments?

A: Valentine's 2001. I had never gone on a picnic, so he surprised me with one in the garden of their house in Tagaytay. He had my favorite food prepared and laid out on a big picnic mat. We had dinner with candlelight under the stars. Just when we were about to leave, he gave me a huge basket filled with pink and purple tulips and balloons, with a copy of the picture-book "Down in the Garden" by Anne Geddes tucked underneath.

R: She threw me my first surprise birthday party with all my friends in Oakwood last year. She set everything up—the food, drinks, place, cake—the works. It was a night I'll never forget!

2bGay on V-Day

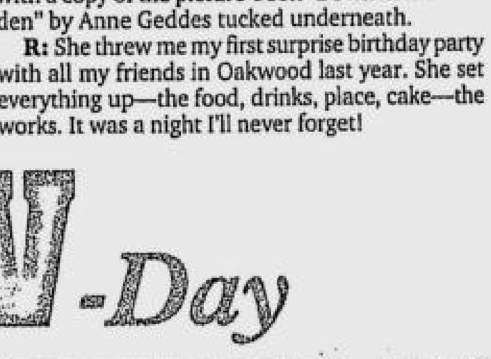
By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

THIS is not an ego trip. This is simply a case of an eager beaver who ended up as dinner. I grabbed this assignment without batting an eyelash, confident that my attention-deprived gay friends would catfight over it. But after a week of rejection, machine gun-style, I am now left choiceless but to share my newfound relationship, which is not entirely top secret. Bon apetit, I guess.

A week before Christmas 2001, I finally got the chance to be formally introduced to my longtime crush, campus weirdo George, a 24-year-old senior "psycho" student who simply got tired of living in the United States and got back home. It was during a Christmas party when we actually got to learn more about each other. After a couple of more getting-to-know-yous, we expressed mutual interest in one another. (That happened on Jan. 14 and I just have to note, no matter how cheesy it is, that we're actually celebrating a month of being together on V-Day. Cheese overload, I know. [*Hindi naman. More like cheese overspoiled.—Ed.*])

George and I, we're as different as Nora and Vilma. But we do have common grounds. Aside from having endless Jude Law, John Cusack and Tobey Maguire movie marathons, we find extreme pleasure in walking and talking, preferably at the same time. One of my all-time favorite moments was when we, as a couple, watched a VCD copy of "The Talented Mr. Ripley" for the first time. Accompanied by cheeseburgers and soda, we had a brawl fighting over Jude Law, but he eventually gave in, settling for Matt Damon and leaving Jude all to myself.

My favorite thing about Porky (that's my term of endearment for him; he calls me Dorky) is that he's such a huge box of surprises. He's so unpredictable and he's simply tireless. He's like this extremely entertaining jester or my personal twirling ballet dancer. And while twisting his arm around his back, he refers to me as, "incredibly patient, astoundingly creative and blessed with the power of understanding." He also considers me as "a great find, such a treasure," grateful he has now found someone eccentric who can tolerate and appreciate his own idiosyncrasies.


HAPPY and gay together

We suffer from discrimination, but our relationship is going great, which cannot be said of straight relationships

One month of staying in together used to be no big deal, but nowadays it sure is a big deal, especially for gay couples that face pressures and different kinds of discrimination from society. So we should pat our backs because we're actually doing better than some straight couples out there.

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com

Text-in promo gives away high-end phones

THE HOTTEST thing nowadays seems to be the ability to interact with various media. It is therefore not surprising that many promotions are sending their messages across in various ways: phone-in, text-in, mail-in, log-in.

Globe Handyphone has definitely helped initiate this trend with its many texting promotions. Recently, its successful "Text Away to Get Away" promo tied in with Globe's multi-episode "Celebr8" series on Studio 23. Viewers tuned in to the TV show and texted in their answers to questions flashed on the screen. All the elements were there, interactivity and the collaboration of two powerful communication tools: television and the mobile phone.

This time, Globe Handyphone subscribers have a chance to win high-end Nokia handsets and cash prizes every hour every day, as well as a crack at the P3 million grand prize.

Globe Handyphone subscribers can join by unscrambling a "mystery word of the day" and sending it to 2255. There are daily draws every hour from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., hence a winner every hour.

According to Globe Telecom senior manager for marketing Em Lingao, "Our customers live an increasingly fast-paced life. Why shouldn't our promos reflect that? 'TXTciting' is simple and quick. You simply send in an entry and you get a response right away."

Nonwinning valid entries for each hourly draw are all eligible for the grand prize draw of P3 million. Globe Telecom director for marketing Nonie Busuego says this is the biggest cash amount prize given to just one individual in a texting promo. "Other promos give away P5 million distributed among many winners. We are giving away P3 million to just one winner," says Busuego.

The prizes for the hourly draws are now small potatoes either. Busuego says high-end phones that can be won in the hourly draws of the contest include the Nokia 6210, 8250, 8310, 8850 and 9210. The hourly draws will also give away P10,000, P20,000, P50,000 and P100,000 cash prizes.

There are many ways for Globe Handyphone subscribers to get the "TXTciting" word of the day, such as texting "TXTCITING" to 2255 and by logging in to www.myglobe.com.ph.

Teen mag features pop princess Britney Spears

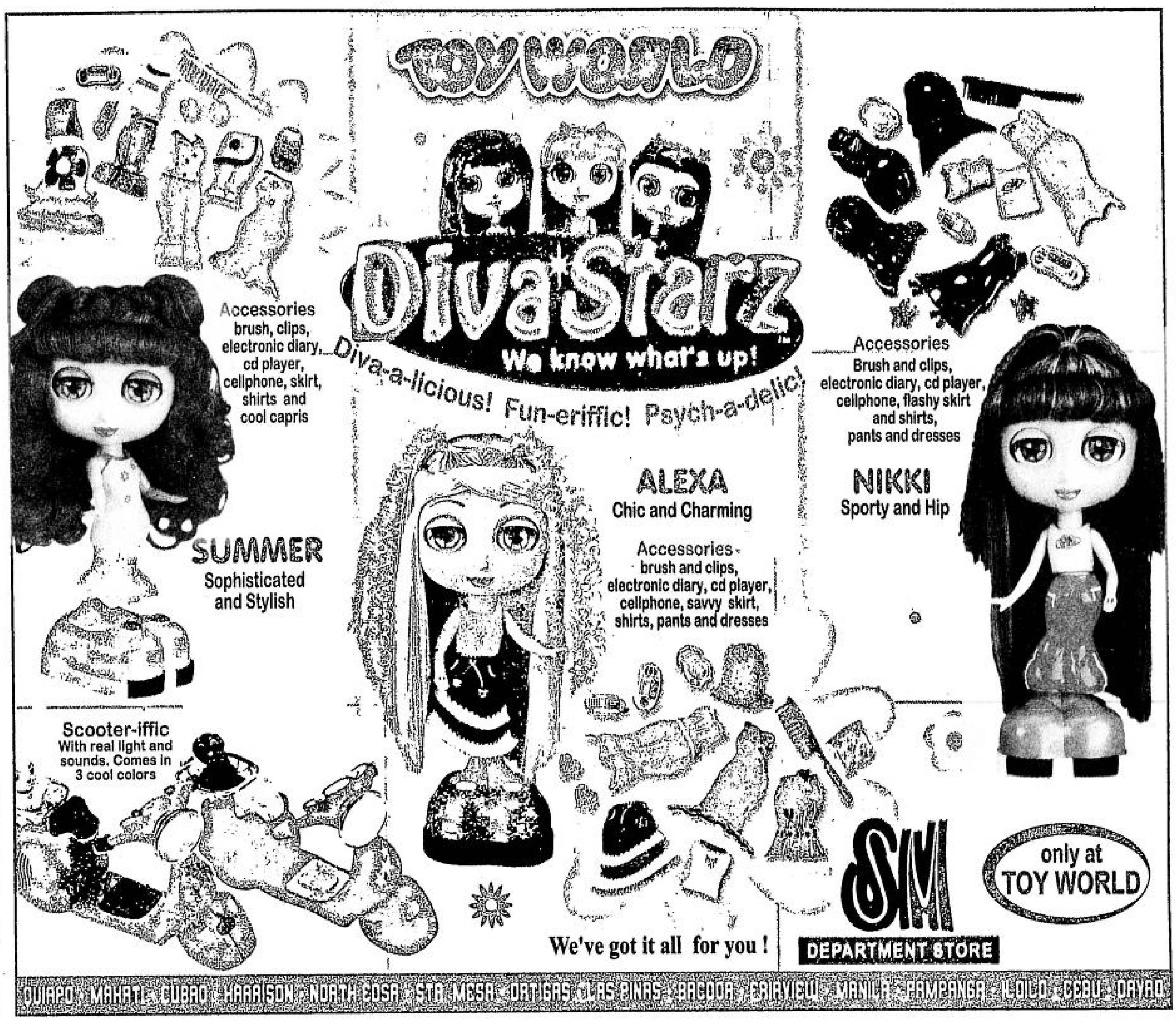
SEVENTEEN Phils. congratulates Britney Spears for winning the Favorite Female Artist Award at the first-ever MTV Asia Awards.

If you just can't get enough of this pop princess, you can catch her on the cover of the January-February issue of Seventeen Phils. Take a peek into the not-always-glam life of this chart-topper as she talks candidly about how much her life has changed since her rise to super stardom.

Her life is about as charmed as a 19-year-old can get. After all, she's the world's hottest teen sensation, she's drop-dead gorgeous, has a body to die for, and let's not forget that she's dating one of America's most wanted bachelors. There's definitely no stopping her now. Way to go, Britney.

You can also join Seventeen's Britney Mania and get a chance to win 10 hot Britney CDs, 10 exclusive Britney magazines and 10 Britney calendars.

The January-February issue of Seventeen Phils. is available in magazine shops and bookstores nationwide at P95 per copy. Seventeen Phils. is published by Summit Media, the premiere magazine publisher in the Philippines. Summit Media publishes nine magazine titles, including licensed Philippine editions of Cosmopolitan, Good Housekeeping, Prevention, FHM and Entrepreneur, as well as original local magazines Candy, Preview and YES.



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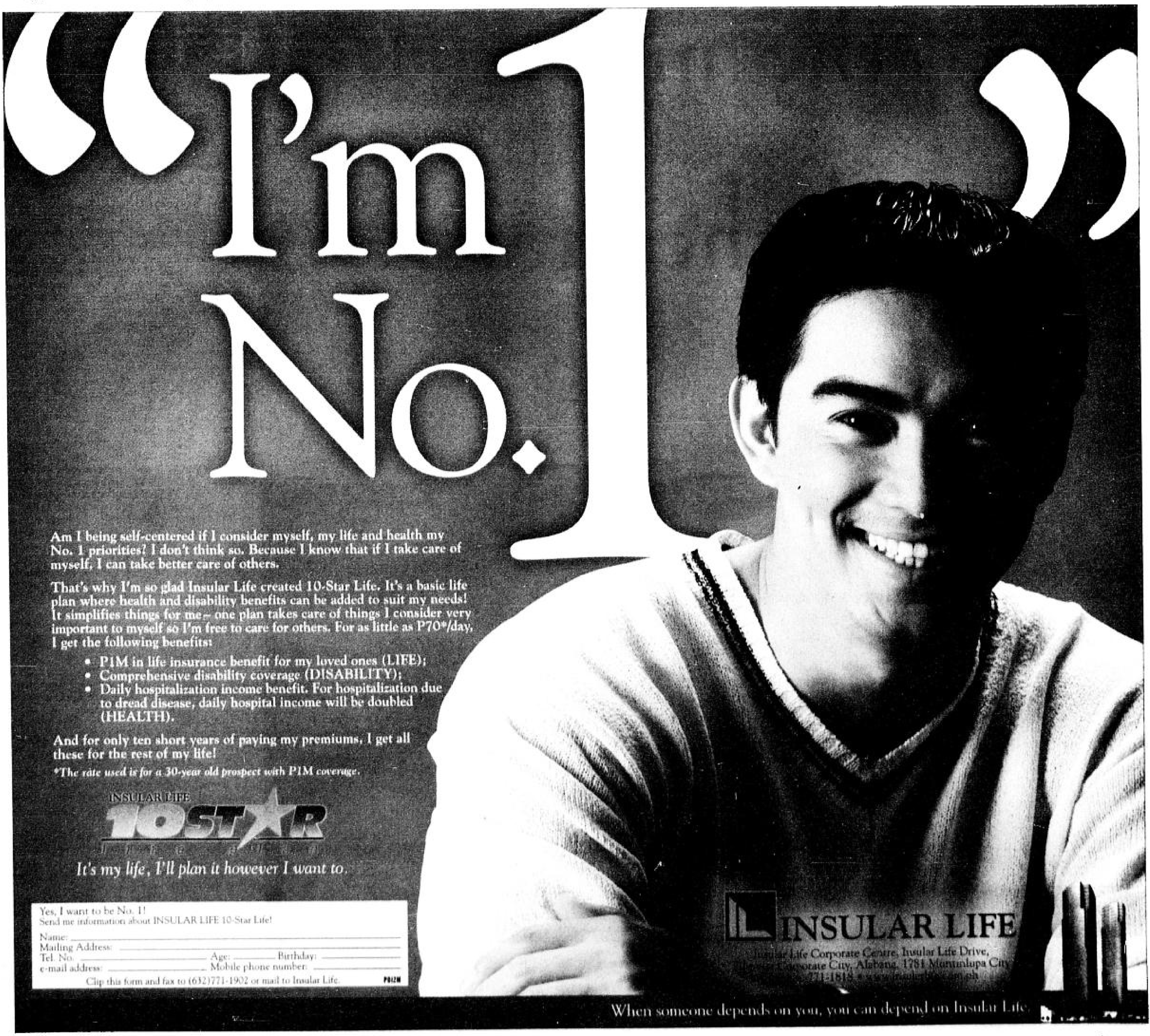

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Valentine is going beyond the real and mundane

By Ivy S. Papa
2bU! Correspondent

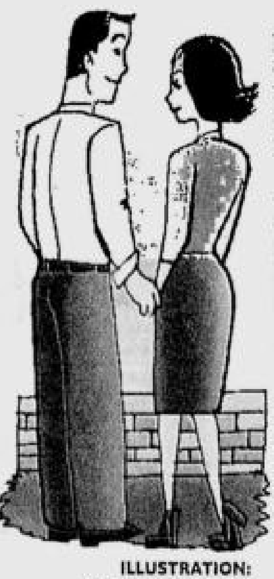

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

COUPLES all over the country are getting ready to celebrate Valentine's Day. Never mind practicality and the fact that we are citizens of a Third-World country. Lovers will definitely splurge to make this day extra special. The less original will settle for the traditional flowers, candies and balloons, while the creative ones will wrack their brains to come up with something extraordinary their partners would completely flip over.

The fortunate ones who will be able to spend the day together are now preparing for the red-letter day. To make it perfect, a romantic and cozy ambience is needed.

Talking to a group of friends about this fancy, I was struck by how most people liken romance to making out. I asked several UP students about the romantic spots in the campus. They all named places that are dimly lit, surrounded by tall grasses and trees, and distinctly mosquito territory. As much as I appreciated their candor in divulging their tryst sites, I was disappointed with young people's Valentine misconceptions.

I asked them what they would do on Valentine's, and the unanimous reply was "probably go to dinner and a movie." In my humble opinion, that's really more of a Friday night thing. You want romance, you have to be more fanciful. Romance requires a flair for going beyond the real and mundane.

After this was pointed out to them, my friends then cited Boracay, Tagaytay, Corregidor and other far-off places, which possess the key ingredients of a romantic milieu. But these are not accessible to most young people in the middle of a school week.

In the metropolis, there are lots of places that can provide the proper ambience. There are cafés, bars and restaurants with excellent food, corner tables with muted lighting and soft, piped-in music—all available to the public at reasonable prices. These places are for the extremely busy ones. But commercialized romance is far too philistine for me.

So, where can one locate the romantic places in the city?

Luneta and the Manila Bay area may be far from pristine, but the sound of the waves crashing against the rocks is pretty primordial. If you and your date both appreciate the mysticism of water, the forces that make them roam all the corners of the planet, then you're in the right frame of mind for romance. If you're the type of person who loves to watch the shifting hues of the sky at twilight, then see Manila Bay's world-class sunset. As darkness sets in, you can view the reflection of harbor lights flickering on the surface of the water.

Chances are your own parents also enjoyed this view and marveled at its magic long before you came into this world.

Romantic haven

Another romantic haven in Manila is Intramuros. I'm positive you've been there a hundred times in the past, most likely on a class field trip. There's a big difference, though, between going there on your own volition with that special someone and fulfilling a requirement to pass a course. If you appreciate history and have a fertile imagination, you'll be able to sense the richness of its past. Images of people from a bygone era, standing where you are, falling in love, despairing, hoping, dying.

But you don't have to limit yourself to Intramuros. Go around Manila. For an extra dosage of culture and history, visit the new National Museum, then proceed to that portion of old Manila. Look for turn-of-the-century or older houses and wonder about the families who lived in them when they were still new and elegant.

Also visit graveyards. The older, the better. Look for interesting epitaphs and visualize the appearances of dead people when they were still alive and imagine their stories. If you don't think it's too morbid, you and your date can discuss what you would like to put on your own tombstones.

Moving on to romantic places with a lighter atmosphere, try Sumulong Highway at night. There's a variety of restaurants and bars lining this road leading to Antipolo City. The advantage these establishments have over the ones in Metro Manila is the view. You can look out the window and see the entire metropolis with the Laguna Bay sparkling in the distance.

There's something endearing about nightlights and being high up in the mountains that detaches you from hard reality. As you gaze down at the dots of light in the valley, the feel of the place gets surreal, as if you slipped into a time zone that lets you observe at leisure the rest of the world go on without you.

Actually, you can achieve the same feeling right in the city. If you have access to the rooftop of a tall building, you can also enjoy a spectacular view from there. It's like acquiring a fragment of omniscience. You can spy on the people below without them knowing they are being observed. You and your date will feel like you're sharing a secret.

Riverside

Going down Sumulong Highway on your way to Quezon City, you pass by Marcos Highway. Before you reach Katipunan, make a sharp turn to the right and find yourself at the Marikina Riverbanks. There's the water element again and in Metro Manila, I believe that the cleanest body of water you can find is the Marikina River. You can cross the river through a bridge or a rented pedal boat.

There's also a darling gazebo completely covered in bougainvillea that's reminiscent of "The Sound of Music." You can park yourselves there or on one of the stone benches strategically located all over the park. If you're not too fussy and not wearing light colored pants, you can sit on the grass.

The place is ideal for whimsical discussions as you listen to the rushing of the river, the croaking of frogs, and the chirping of crickets. It's like being away from the city, an illusion created by the trees, the looming mountains surrounding the area and the charming small-town atmosphere that Marikina City has been clever enough to maintain despite its being part of the National Capital Region.

Last on my list of romantic places is the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman. Somebody told me that just walking around the Academic Oval is romantic enough for her. This is especially so at dusk when the sky begins to darken and the lampposts start to glow. From the perspective of somebody coming from the Quezon Hall, this sight is very reminiscent of gas lamp lit London streets.

Ancient acacias make a fine canopy over the streets and exude freshness in the air despite the presence of motor vehicles. If you don't fancy walking, there are lots of other places where you can sit and get to know each other more, such as the lagoon and the Sunken Garden. If you need sustenance after circling the Oval, then you can go to the Chocolate Kiss or Odd Manila, both at the Bahay ng Alumni.

Should you want to prolong your day together, you can catch a movie at the film center or chance upon a concert happening in the campus. This is not only for UP students. The campus is, as you know, open to the public.

I'm certain there are other romantic places and I suppose, up to a particular point, the description of romance can be relative. In essence, it's really whatever appeals to your sensibilities.

But no matter how different your idea of a romantic place is from the ones I cited, it all boils down to the fact that romance is ushered in by a key element. It's not so much as being with the person you're hooked on, but as having the correct disposition. Happy Heart's Day.

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STICKY SITUATION. Former VJ Keri Casem and Sarah Meier partying in Singapore

Singapore swing & Manila chill

Tim Yap

EVERYTHING here in Singapore closes at 3, remember?" said the bouncer as he opened the door for me and my buddies at Pink for the post-after party (meaning, after-after party) in the aftermath of the first MTV Asia Awards. I was on Club Street. I checked my watch—it was 4:30 a.m.

Either my Swatch had the wrong time or this was some illegal party I was joining—whichever, my adrenaline just gets pumped up every time I'm at some dark venue with some very drunk people. Alcoholics aside, the vibe was just conta-

SINGAPORE/ p.D2

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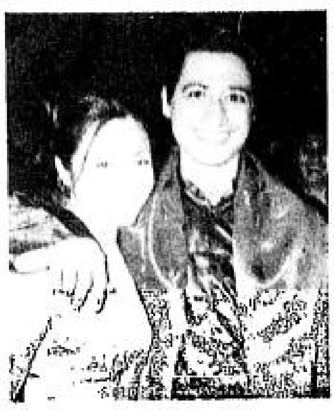

CHINOIS SHINE. Dianne Sison and Ilac Diaz

KUNG HEI! Manuel Lilje and John Cu-Unjieng of Wherelse

FIGHT MODE. Richie and Faith Amigo-Lavarro

MATI MAGIC. Nafsika Droussou and Yorgos Psinakis

MODEL MATE. Jesper Frantzich and Eazel Don

PARTY SLING. Unilever's Ed Sunico and MTV's Bong Paderna

WHERELSE AT E! Marcel Crespo and Kristin Malia

*Singapore*swing*&Manila*chill

THAI POP. Pretty, pretty Tata Young

CHEERS! Scho Parpan-Richardson, now based in Singapore

From page D1

gious, artists and celebs (read: very beautiful people) from various points of the region getting together after a grueling awards session, all out to celebrate, hook up and "pick up" a few points here and there.

Indochine, (One Empress Road) on Boat Quay, near the Asian Civilization Museum was our first stop right after the awards. It was a spacious, opulent space filled with multicolored chandeliers and couches. Champagne flowed freely as partyphiles hopped from the percussion house beat floor to the R&B bar area.

The night before, we were at Equinox, an Asian inspired bar on top of the Stamford Raffles (71st floor to be exact) which gives one an unobstructed view of the Singapore skyline. Before I could sing "Top of the World," we hopped on to One Fullerton to check out hot Singapore spots Centro and Embargo. There, we met up with now Singapore-based architects **Chesca Carpo**, **Aya Maceda** and **Chris Cuaso**, who told us that more and more hip, young Pinoys are moving to Singapore for career opportunities. **Lia Colayco** used to be based there, before she married superstar DJ **Ferry Corsten**. Style files **Scho Parpan-Richardson**, **Jeanette Sy-Westelman** and **Orange Aberin**, sister to supermodel **Apples**, are also based there, among many others.

Eastern élan

That same night in Manila, Wherelse hosted a Chinese New Year party for E! Philippines as everyone was decked out in their finest chinoiserie. I had to scrounge around my closet to find oriental stuff for friends. Sometimes, I feel like Camp Suki.

"Fantabulous!" was the response we got when we texted Wherelse owner **Marcel Crespo** asking about the celebration. Not to fret about what I missed, I went to Wherelse the following Friday for the start of Chivas Regal's chill series, which had a similar theme—"Eastern Sunrise!"—to coincide with the launch of the CD with the same title, featuring Asian artists—in time for the Chinese New Year.

Buddhas were positioned at the club's entrance as golden glamazons filled the room, catwalking around the club, distributing spiked Chivas popsicles to the chill folk present in the club. Later, a sexy "spot the tattoo" game was held with **Miles** of TM sexily strutting onstage to welcome the night's revelry. Guys and gals bared their soul for "Eastern Sunrise" chill CDs—one guy unabashedly cupped his crotch and showed the world his tattoos, as—plop! His Easter egg popped out! "That was the highlight of my night," naughtily whispered one of the organizers.

DJ **Mon Maramba** took over after a while, maneuvering the audience into turntable madness! This guy is the most underrated—but totally one of the best—musicmeisters in town. From his reign during the Euphoria days to his Wherelse residency, this guy can really rock, making even the most jaded partyphiles groove to his every beat and whim. With this weekend double whammy, I now declare Wherelse as *the* place to be on Fridays, and Maramba, the DJ to beat.

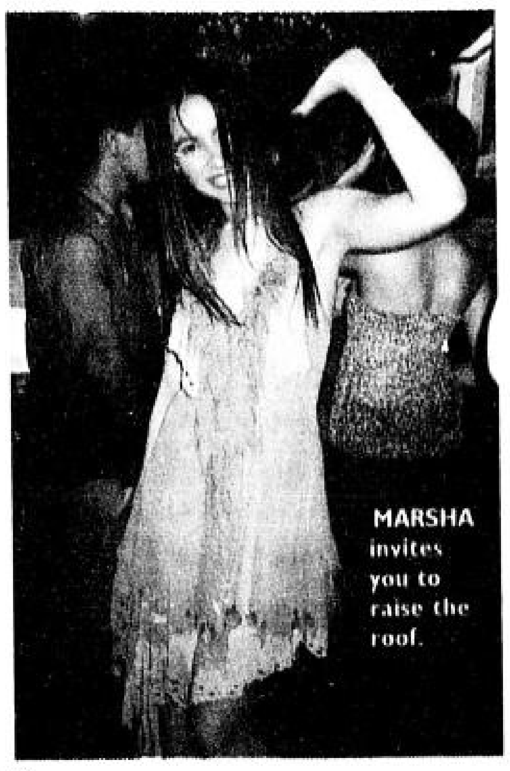
Lounging around

Saturday, Yaparazzi ran to the Beauty Bar at the Power Plant in Rockwell where DJ **Robby Mananquil** (the newest Bench image model) was spinning. Dinner time, we jumped to Wasabi in sheer excitement, early for the first time, to catch **Anton Ramos**' launch of his nth chill CD, "The Lounge Story"—with cuts from Groove Armada, Way Out West and other world-renowned chill masters.

Midnight, and I was observing the chill pioneer play his set, as his head was bobbing to every beat. He had a very satisfied smile—this guy really internalizes his music! And it was infectious, with the Wasabi crowd very appreciative of this venue, which was oh-so-conducive to conversation.

Oh, did I tell you that Music One and Tower Records have merged? It's now under Music First, which operates both brands, with Anton Ramos as president and **Vince Parr**, the former COO of Tower as vice president. Seems like good news to music lovers.

Maria Orosa was the last stop for the night, with a flesh fest happening on the street to mark the opening of Pride eXchange, a store for those into kink and sexy sleaze. We worked our way to Fidel, where we stayed throughout the night. I looked at my watch, it was 4:30 a.m. Time to go.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ORIENTAL ORGY. The Chivas chill continues at Raj on Feb. 16 and at Wasabi on Feb. 23.

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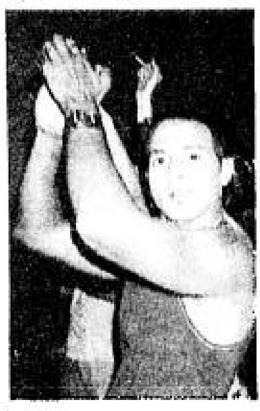
MIKE's sister Keri Casem, co-host of "America's Funniest Videos"


APPLAUSE, PLEASE. VJ Nikhil, who hosted the VIP red carpet area with Belinda Panelo

LOUNGING with Anton Ramos

FLOWER drum song of Pinky Webb and David Jacob

THUMBS UP, MATE! Westlife in party mode

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

CROTCH PODGE. Jet Rai grabs his thing down under

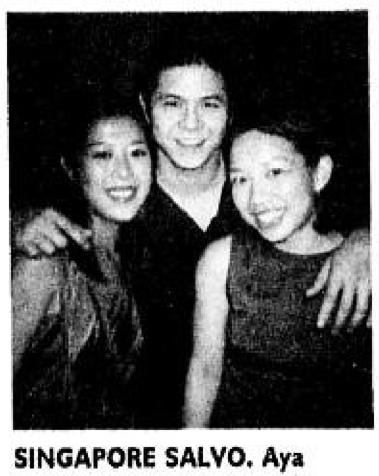
MIKE Casem in dragon mode at the MTV party

THAI pop prince Dom spotted at the after party

LOVE BUG. International superstar photographer Russel Wong

SHE-RA! Feathered feline spotted at Indochine

PRETTY TRIO. Anne Matoto, Trinchie Floro and Anna Shier


SINGAPORE SALVO. Aya Maceda, Chris Cuaso and Chesca Carpo

THE CHOICE OF A GENERATION. Donita Rose and friend Juliana Sharifah

THE GLOBE-VOLUTION of Leo Sanchez

LION CITY LIAISONS. Jeanette Sy-Westelman and Rina Calica-Ward

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What will you do with your loved one this V-day?

The pairs who entered the contest already have something to be thankful for—each other

FOR TWO weeks, the 2bU! inbox was flooded with entries from couples raring to go on a special 2bU!-Powerplant date. Some entries made us laugh, others made us swoon, a few had us chorusing "Awwww!" The pairs who entered the contest clearly already have something to be thankful for—each other.

Still, some couples proved even luckier:

Ten winners of the Ultra-power Date Packages

These people and their partners will begin with a special dinner at the Area or O Café before heading for the Power Station for games and excitement. After rolling a few balls at the Power Bowl, they can catch their breath by enjoying a nice movie at the Power Plant Cinema.

LUCKY/ p.D6

Tagaytay high

CAROL and I have been going steady for quite a while now. We've had a lot of Christmases, Valentines and anniversaries together and it's quite tough to top what we've done every year. This year, we'll drive up to Tagaytay to enjoy the breeze. We love *bulalo* at Leslie's. We'll spend some quiet time alone—a night of pure love and romance.

—Bob Espiritu

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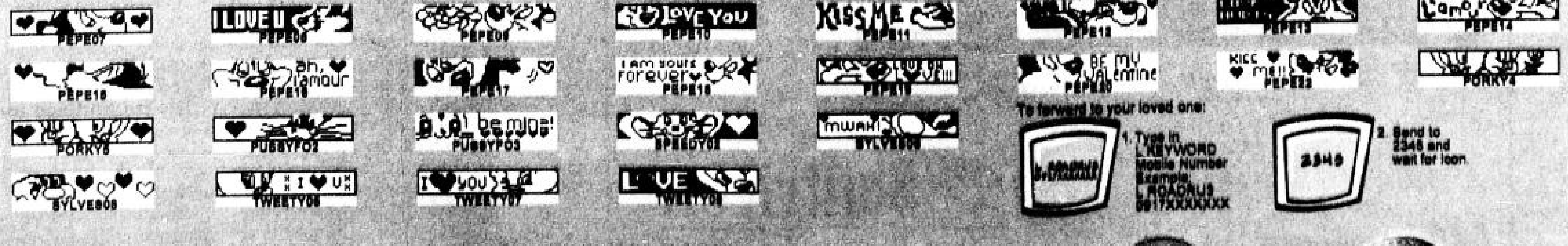
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PEPE09
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PEPE12
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PEPE15
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PEPE17
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0289, Series of 2002

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Silly lines from silly love songs

'You think that people would've had enough of silly love songs ... That's Paul McCartney lamenting the clichés of love songs a generation ago. But have we really had enough of them even in the new century?

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

WHAT makes for an ultimate prom song? Well, for one, you get to slow-dance with that dreamy prom date of yours (that is, unless you went with your cousin, which is sad, so sad). Second, you get swept away when that certain line from that sentimental song playing comes up. You know what we're talking about—it's that certain line or refrain, where you just start gushing away, having your crush, boyfriend or perhaps ex, in mind. It's that part of the song that you write all over your notebook papers, quote all the time, and what calls for some serious LSS (Last Song Syndrome) moments.

Just in time for Valentine's, 2bU! asks some love-struck people their favorite lines from their favorite love songs. Could you be reading what would make a fab mix tape for your significant other this Valentine's? Read on!

"*Naghihintay ng muling pagdating, nag-aabang ng takip-silim. Umaasang maya-maya'y nar'yan at kasayaw ka. Kung sakali...*" from "Hiram" by Twisted Halo. It's my fave song when I feel so strong and so helpless at the same time. When you have the strength to wait and stay still, but you also kind of feel restless as the waiting process slowly kills you.—**Trici Nicolas, 19**

"If I could find a way to get to you, you know I will be free, from the loneliness that haunts me like your killer melodies, but the more I try to reach you, the more I start to see, there's nothing I can do but wait here, half wishing," from "Half Wishing" by Mojofly.—**Wahmittee**

"Summer Romance" by Incubus: "I may have found a way for you and I to finally fly free. When we get there, we're gonna go so far away." Reason: Ever heard of parents moving heaven and earth just to destroy a relationship? Makes you want to fly to another place, eh? (I think you got the drift now. Wink.)—**Alora, 22**

"I love her so bad but she treats me like s--t/It's getting harder/I'd like to hold her... Head under water/Me and my girl," from "Doin' Time" by Sublime. It describes one of my relationships. I was in one where I loved this girl so much but she just drove me up the wall. So much so I could've killed her.—**JayJ, 18**

"If a star fell from the sky every time I thought of you, there would be none. And if the moon would shine all the while you're on my mind, we'd never see the day," from a song by a band called Nouveux. It's one of my favorites because of the picture it creates in your mind. You know, it's a visual representation of love. My other fave is "Dandelions... you see flowers in these weeds." It's one of my favorites because sometimes I feel like a weed, and it's nice to think someone sees me as a flower.—**AJ, 18**

"I see your picture, I smell your skin on the empty pillow next to mine. You have only been gone 10 days, but already I'm wasting away. I know I'll see you again whether far or soon, but I need you to know, that I care and I miss you," from "I Miss You" by Incubus.—**Nico Af, 18**

I love the words of "Norwegian Wood" by the Beatles: "I once had a girl or should I say, she once had me..." I'm not sure if that's a love song though. I like it because it makes me think of a certain person and a certain time of my life.—**Oz**

"You have always been a thorn in the side, but to me you're a shining light. Yeah you light up my life," from "Shining Light" by Ash. Simply because I hope there's one person out there who would understand me and actually love me the way I hope I deserve to be loved.—**Kinn, 18**

"If a picture paints a thousand words, then why can't I paint you? The words will never show the you I've come to know," from Bread's song "If." I just love that song and it's a song for someone special.—**aar0475**

"Hate" by Rivermaya: "I hate you for the things you do, but I love you, I curse for your beauty, that makes me make some poetry about love. I don't think you even think about me, if only you were smiling, if I was reason, tomorrow I could die."—**Jasper**

My favorite song is Mojofly's "Runaway Angel" simply because I can deeply relate to that song. The words, the music and the melody blend beautifully.—**RC**

The *Ataris! "Today I made you a mix tape to say exactly how I feel inside and make you feel it too. These are the songs that make me smile and cry myself to sleep at night when I'm lying without you. I love you more than I ever loved anyone before."—**PinoyPunk!**

"'Love moves in mysterious ways, it's always so surprising when love appears over the horizon. Simply because love hits you when you least expect it!"—**Kaye, 18**

The line from the Incubus song, "I Miss You": "To see you when I wake up is a gift, I didn't think could be real." I just love that song! It's a good one!—**Shiela Fabular**

"'He's everything you want, he's everything you need, he's everything inside of you that you wish you could be." It signifies my relationship with someone.—**Liberty, 19**

Galing sa "Sometimes When we Touch": "I'd rather hurt you honestly than please you with a lie." *Kasi ang ganda, eh!*—**Chino**

That song from Babyface, "What If": "What if we were wrong about each other, what if you were really made for me." It makes you realize how special someone is right after you lose him.—**Steph, 18**

Blackstreet: "It came over me in a rush, and I realized that I love you so much."—**Jo, 18**

The chorus of "I'll Be" by Edwin McCain: "I'll be your cryin' shoulder, I'll be love's suicide, I'll be better when I'm older, I'll be the greatest fan of your life." It's my song for my ex-girlfriend. This song was playing at the bar where I first knew we were going to be "us." Although we're not together any more, I'm still the greatest fan of her life. Sigh! Memories!—**Von**

From Joe's "I Wanna Know": "I wanna know what turns you on, so I can be all that and more... I wanna know what makes you cry so I could be the one who always makes you smile."—**Pam, 21**

"Lightyears" by my favorite band, The Eraserheads: "But it doesn't even matter where you are, however near still yet you're far. It's like you're lightyears away, lightyears away from me." —**Rody**

"Pity those who wait, trusting love to fate, finding out too late that they've lost it," from "Got to Believe in Magic" from the soundtrack of "Zapped." It's self-explanatory. I love sad songs.—**Karin A.**

E-mail the author at volcanogirl28@hotmail.com

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

V-day spells for the victims of reckless love

The highway of love is fraught with risks and dangers

By Bunny Anne Gapit
2bU! Correspondent

HAVE you ever been gravely hit and run over? No, I'm not talking about a vehicular mishap. This is hit-and-run in the romantic context. Roughed up by reckless love drivers? Find out if they belong to any of the following V-day maledictions and cast the spell accordingly:

The bogged downs. These are the ones who, somewhere along the way, just want to call the relationship off because they're now amused with new toys.

"Tonight I so intensely grieve, such immense pain of a bereaved, and pass it on expectantly, soon she'd be you and you'd be me!"

The stuck in traffic. These blokes are initially keen on you, but as you try to put spice in the courtship, suddenly leave you lost at sea.

"Blush with shame, you dumb and coward, so numb and feeble to foresee your reward, fat chance in love you wouldn't find your keep, forever in reclusion with your cold, cold feet!

The gasoline boys (or heat-and-run men). These are lechers you get into scrapes with. They leave without compunction.

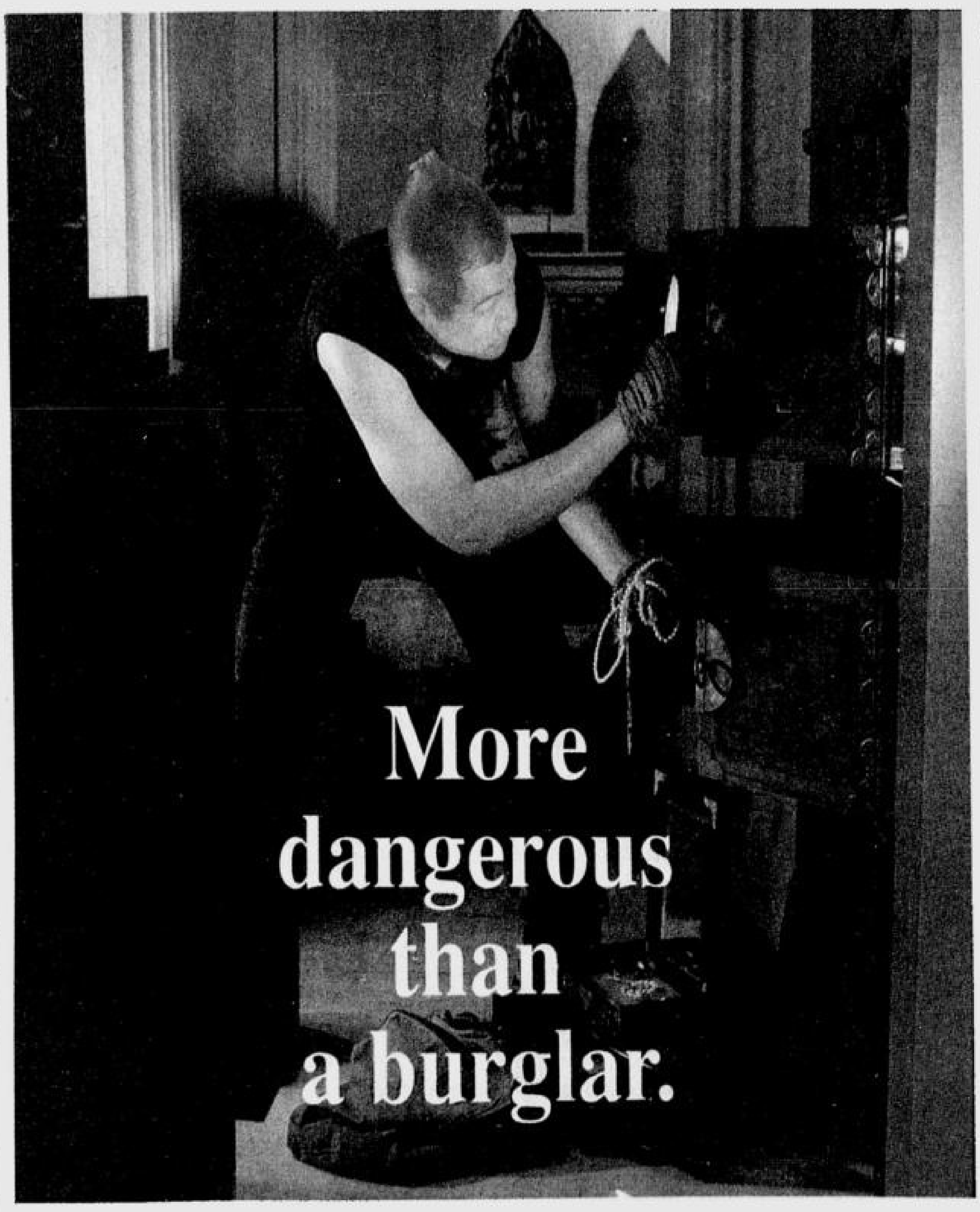
"Huge damn pile of human pork, who rid me and discarded his stork, may you be lashed with women's budge, may no one want your pee-wee bulge!"

The hitchhiker snobs. These are charmers who are however insensitive to the amorous feelings toward them by others.

"This one's for the insentient bloke, incognizant of me like an autistic, live in my mind, repeatedly choke and scowl ever more for a good Heimlich!"

The hit-and-run men. These are the ones who find solace beating you black and blue, then slip away in quest of a brand-new punching bag.

"Now that my wounds have skinned over, I forgive my Jackie Chan or Cynthia Luster, and wish immediately they'd commit the blunder of meeting the likes of Bobbit or Schwarzenegger!"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Get rid of termites for good with the Sentricon Colony Elimination System. The Sentricon System provides permanent protection with innovative technology that eliminates termites and then monitors your home for any new intruders.

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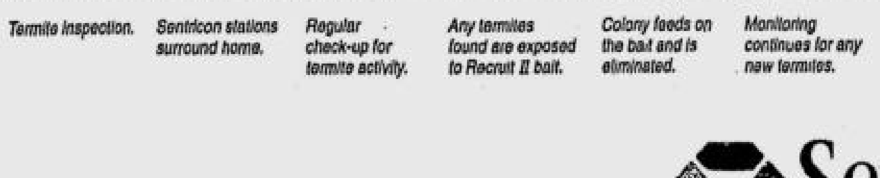
You're leaving your home wide open for termites. Why aren't you protecting it with the Sentricon System?


Termite inspection. Sentricon stations surround home. Regular check-up for termite activity. Any termites found are exposed to Recruit II bait. Colony feeds on the bait and is eliminated. Monitoring continues for any new termites.

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Is a 13-year-old too young to own a cell phone?

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mabino

MY younger sister is going to be a high school student next school year and I want to give her a congratulatory gift. I asked her what she wants and she said that she wants a cell phone. My sister is only 13. I don't know if it would be good for her to own a cell phone at her age. I'm afraid that she'll get addicted to texting and end up with terrible spelling and grammar skills. It's a stupid fear but I am really worried. Plus, my mom and I wouldn't be able to monitor her social life anymore if my sister gets a cell phone because she can receive messages personally. She's not a prisoner in our house or something, but she's just 13. Would it be to her benefit if I give her what she wants? Is she really too young for cell phones or am I just being too conservative?

JOEY

ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

What you are really turning into is a captive drone of the rents' mind control. You are such a presumptuous fool in thinking that you can "monitor" her social life and possibly guide her through this tumultuous world of ours. What did you do in your teen years? Play in the sun a bit too long with imaginary friends while your proud mother watched on? Oh, let me guess… she worked so hard at the bullet factory cleaning ammo shells using her pinky and often the ends of her long black hair as you praised her prostrate, exhausted figure when she couldn't lift another plate or spoon at the sink.

You might think that that's a little harsh coming from me. You might think I'm judgmental as I crucify you in your attempts at being the responsible parent you never had, but as much as I think some problems are best worked out by experience, I'm a big believer in free will and democracy.

You need to get out some more and discover life out there, not the false universe of safety and security that you attempt to concoct and generate in your sister's mind. The good values that you've learned out there is what you should subjugate your little sib's mind with. And from there, she can face the evil clutches of the renegade text fiends of this world with confidence. Phrases everyone should learn to use with wisdom and discretion: 1) "Get away from me, creep!" 2) "None of your business!" This also applies to people whom you would normally address with 'sir' and 'ma'am.' 3) "I'll call you when I'm ready to order, thank you."

Why don't you let her work for her phone since you're obviously not smart enough to be rich. Buy her something simple like PowerPuff Girl posters, a self-defense class or a foreign language course if you're so concerned about her language skills. It just might be her ticket out of this land of dinosaurs and old-school believers in blind faith and repression of self-discovery.

CALOY

I, on the other hand, don't think that you're an out-of-control control freak who is trying to run some young girl's life. Just the other week, a younger cousin texted me to ask for a good brush-off text message to a pervert who was bugging her. And this cousin is already 18 years old. What can I say, some people just don't know how to handle the trouble that comes with a little freedom. If you think your sister can't be trusted yet with owning a phone, then it's your call since you know her better. If she acts bratty about not getting a phone, tell her that she doesn't need one yet or something to that effect. Honestly, I wouldn't know why a freshman high school student would need a mobile phone—maybe I'm just one of the dinosaurs that Caloy is talking about. Whatever decision you make, Joey, just remember that it's never too early for a young girl to learn that whatever she wants, she doesn't always get.

SEP

E-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

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Title	Artist	Keyword	Title	Artist	Keyword
Baby can I hold you	Boyzone	babyhold	Mr. Kupido	Rachel Alejandro	mrkupido
Bakit ba	Ella May Saison	bakitba	Para sa'yo	Randy Santiago	parasayo
Bakit pa	Jessa Zaragoza	bakitpa	Seasons of love	Theme from Rent	seasnluv and seasnluv1
Be my lady	Martin Nievera	bemylady			
Can't take my eyes off you	Andy Williams	cantake	Stars	Simply Red	stars
Crush ng bayan	Cris Villonco	crushng	Stop! In the name of love	Diana Ross	stop
Dahil tanging Ikaw	Jaya	dahil	Til my heartaches end	Ella May Saison	tilmy
Di ba't ikaw	Jessa Zaragoza	dibatika	To sir with love	Norman Percival and his Orchestra	tosir
Dito sa puso ko	Jaya	ditosapu			
Grow old with you	Adam Sandler	growold	Wedding march	Mendelssohn, Felix	wedding2
I can dream about you	Dan Hartman	dreamabt	Will you still love me tomorrow	Carole King	luvmetom and willyou
If you could read my mind	Stars on 54/Jeannie Riley	readmind			
Ikaw lang at ako	Sharon Cuneta	ikawlang	You can't hurry love	Phil Collins	canthury
Kaba	Tootsie Guevarra	kaba	You make me feel like a natural woman	Carole King	woman
Looking through the eyes of love	Broadway Hit - Ice Castle	lukngtru	You to me are everything	Real Thing	u2me
Mahal pa rin kita	Rockstar	mahalpar	Your smiling face	James Taylor	ursmilin

To forward to your loved one:
1. Type in N KEYWORD Mobile Number
Example: N GROWOLD 0917XXXXXXX
2. Send to 2345 and wait for tone.

Want Pepé Le Pew on your phone? Just follow the instructions below
1. Type L keyword Ex. L pepe13
2. Send to 2345
PEPE13 PEPE14 PEPE15

Ringtones service currently works with the following models:
Nokia: 5110 (version 4.59 and up), 3210, 3310, 3330, 6110, 6150, 6210, 6250, 7110, 8210, 8310, 8610, 8250, 8850, 8890 & 9210
Ericsson: GH688, GH768, GH788, 1888, T10s, T18s, T28s.
Ericsson users must encode their ringtones using the Tone Guide
Sendo: S200, J520, P200 (using Nokia keywords)

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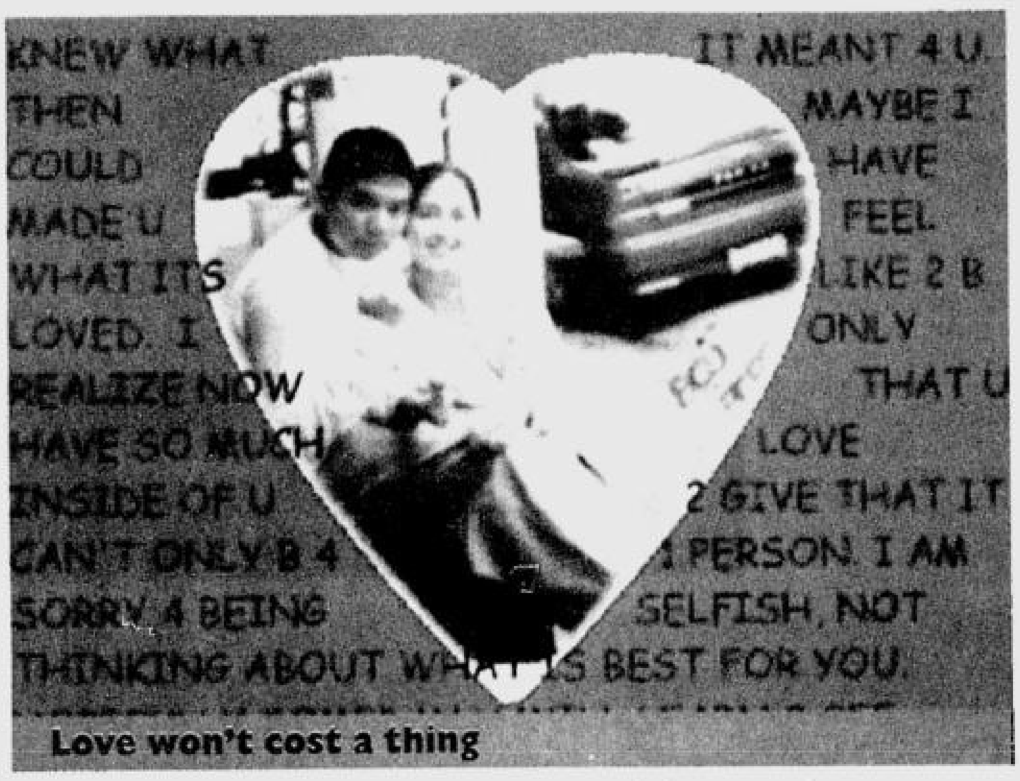

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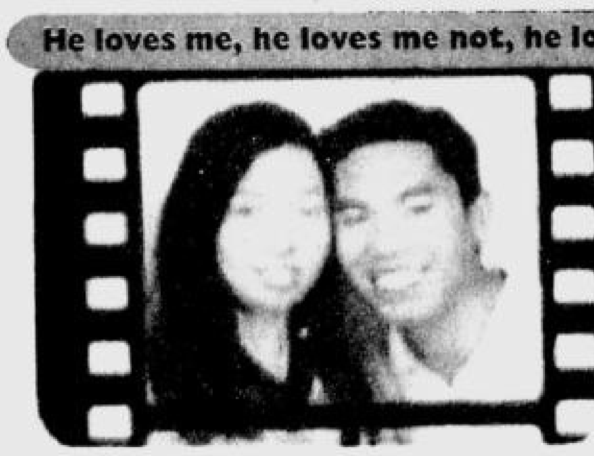

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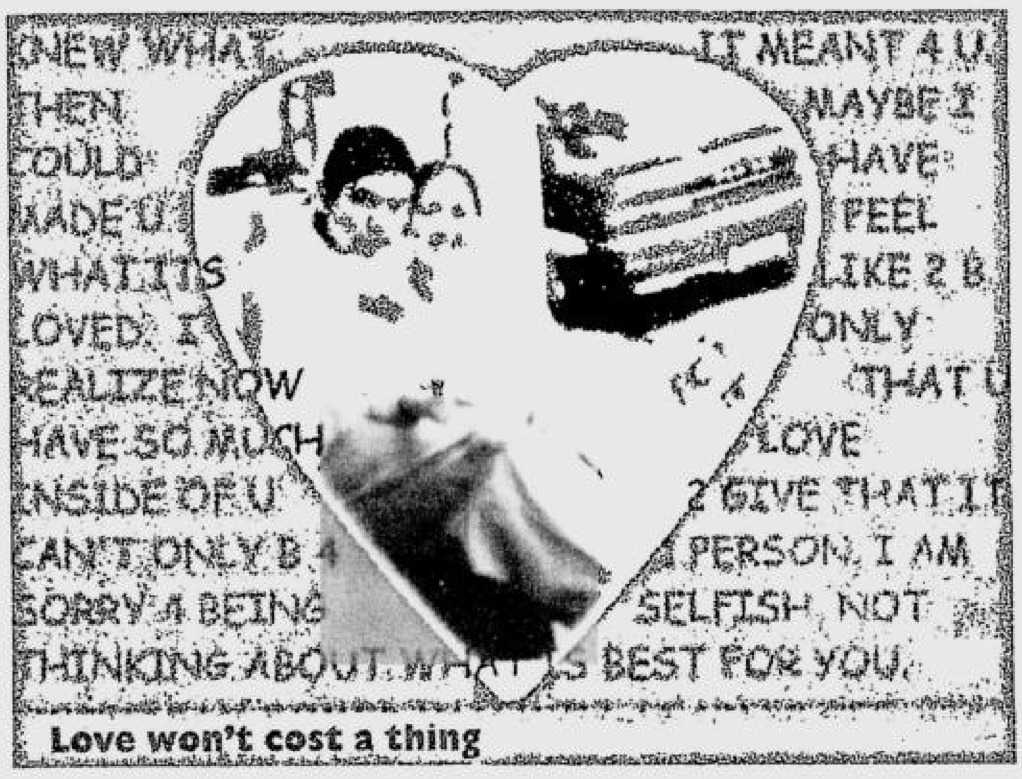

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V-day raffle takes winners to Thailand

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On Feb. 1-28, any purchase of Triumph products worth P800 from any Triumph store entitles one to a scratch card, which could win you an instant prize on the spot plus a chance to join the grand Valentine raffle draw. Participating styles are Triumph Maximizer, Beedees, Sloggi and Fashion.

All the customer has to do is scratch the silver portion of the card to find out if he won an instant prize—a Sweeties Briefs from Triumph. Win or lose, the buyer gets the chance to participate in the grand raffle draw which will be held at the Triumph International on March 15.

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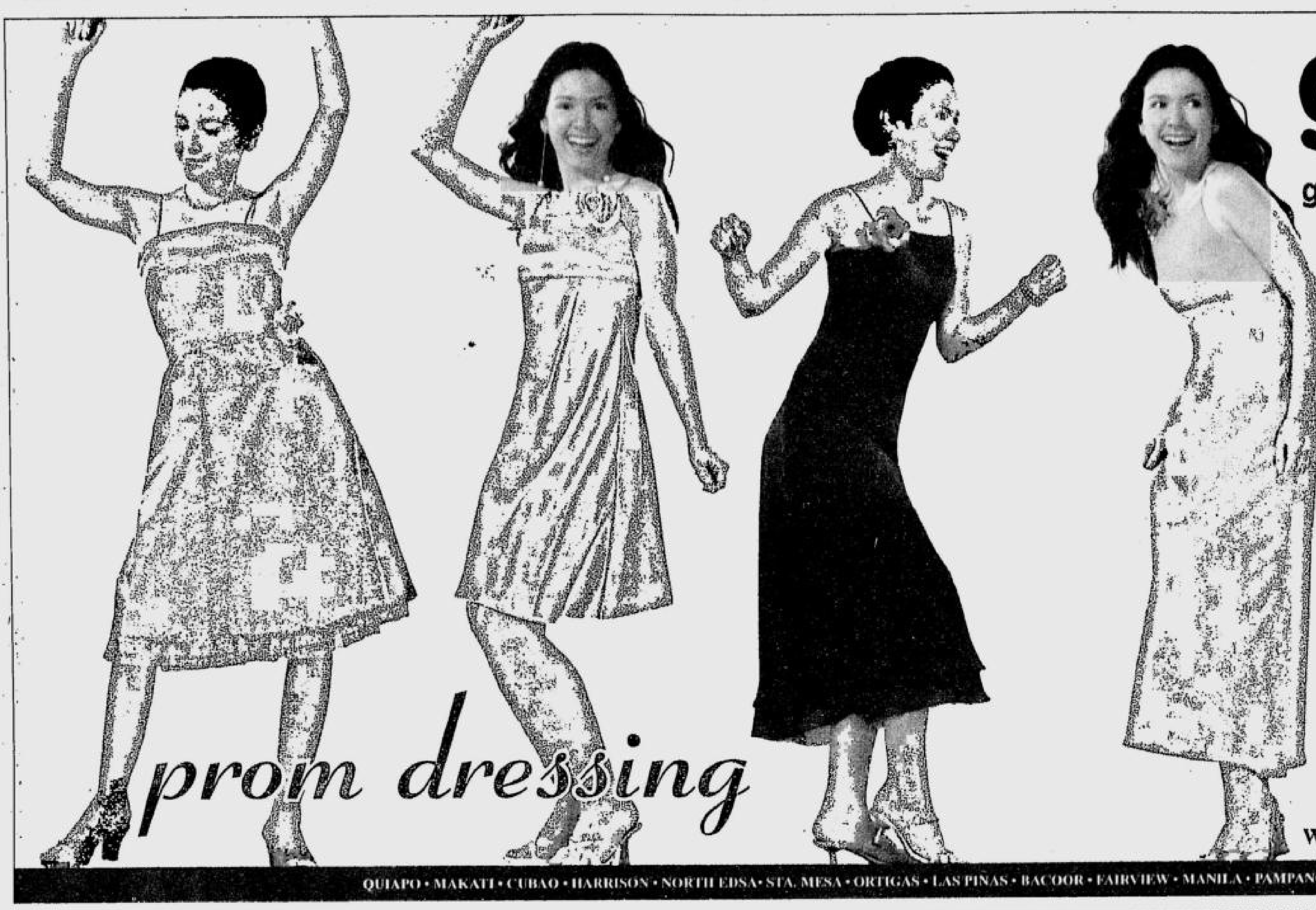

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No 0269 Series of 2002

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‘Pain is not always a bad thing, it can be a learning thing’

PHOTO
TIM YAP

The color of funk is Pink

By Leah Salterio

EVERYTHING about Pink is amusing.

She likens herself to a Pink Smurf. Never conventional, she dresses up in a funky way, always out to stun with psychedelic colors and avant-garde designs. She has eight tattoos all over her body.

She thinks nothing of naming her dog “Fucker” (she is allergic to cats). Her debut album “M!ssundaztood” was misspelled on purpose “to piss off my teachers.”

Although she listens to Jimi Hendrix, Billy Joel, Janis Joplin, Guns n' Roses and the late

THE COLOR/ p.E4

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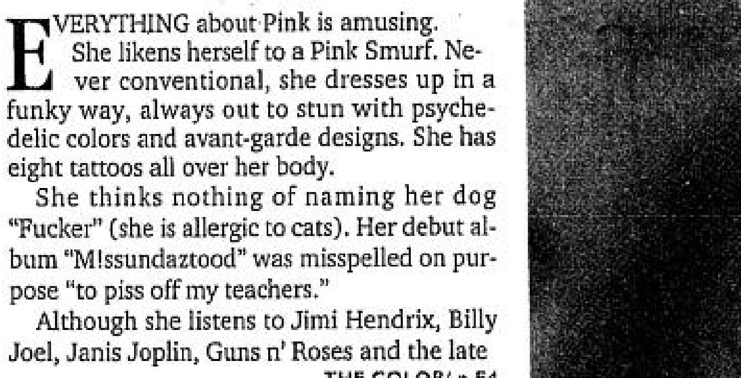

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THE 2BU! THERMOMETER

Blogging's hot, Balikatan's acceptable, security guards are abusive

BLOGGING. Even Time magazine and CNN have taken notice. Blogs (short for weblog) have been sprouting up everywhere. Thousands of blog-happy (bloggers or blogsnobs, if you will) update their journals every day for the whole world to read. It's easy, it's convenient and an extremely effective way to vent. No wonder there are countless blog fanatics. Here are few quotes from the Blogger site:

"Blogger gives me a chance to vent and voice. I am very opinionated and loud. Blogger is patient."—Jess

"Blogger is my life. I am in love with it. My best friend told me my blog has become my boyfriend. My blog has replaced all needs for love, affection and other things. Heehee. She thinks I'm dating my blog."—Angie

Get your own blog at www.blogger.com

alanis morissette

"HANDS CLEAN." Alanis Morissette's new single is just as catchy as her classic favorites. Does the video have hints of her former relationship with producer/lover Glen Ballard?

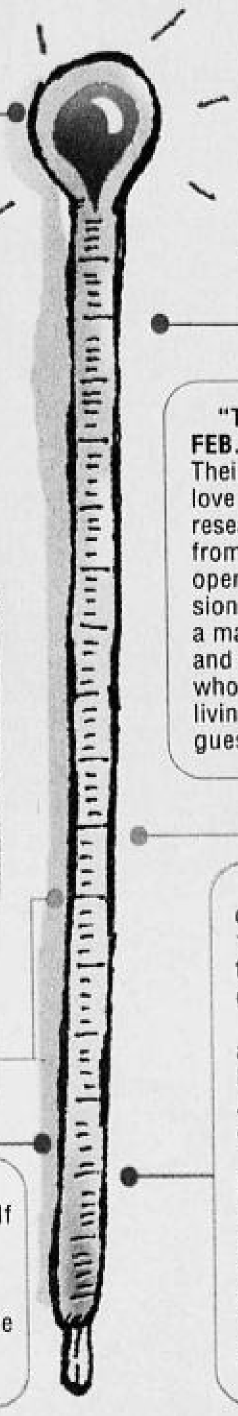
BOHEMIAN, HIPPIE LOOK. The hottest trend. With Britney Spears sporting the look for her next video, "I'm Not a Girl, Not Yet a Woman," expect nothing else.

PIRACY. First, it was audio CDs. Then software and VCDs. Now, DVDs? Yes, pirated DVDs of "Harry Potter," "The Lord of the Rings," "Ocean's Eleven," etc. are now available. (If you have even a smudge of a conscience, don't even think about it.) When will these pirates stop?

NO MORE FREE TEXT AT FONETASTIC.COM. Those people who have been enjoying free SMS messages via Fonetastic.com have reason to be sad. The local telecoms have once again blocked our only way of saving even just a little on text. Why? Give us a break, it's not like we can carry around our computers all day.

UKAY-UKAY. Goodbye, dirt-cheap goodies. We will miss you.

SCRIPT OF THE MTV ASIA AWARDS. It was bad, real bad. If we were the presenters, we would've covered our faces in shame. But then again, it wouldn't have been as bad if the presenters didn't deliver them much worse.



NIKE AIR WOVEN. This might just become 2002's Presto. Then again, there's Shox, too. You choose.

DYMOCKS. Excellent! Yet another bookshop for the voracious reader. Dymocks in Robinsons Place Ermita is a haven for lovers of good literature. The bookstore is well-lit, book displays are easy on the eyes, salesclerks are helpful and the stocks are commendable.

MUSICIANS RECORDING AT HOME. These artists get to have unlimited freedom in their music without having producers tell them what to do.

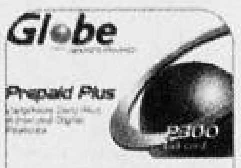
"TALK TV'S" FEB. 11 SHOW. Their topic on gay love was well-researched. Aside from their eye-opening discussion, the show had a man, his ex-wife and the gay lover whom he's now living with as guests.

BALIKATAN. The arrival of the US troops has divided the nation. Endless protests have been launched, they say prostitution will shoot up, but if this means the end of the Abu Sayaff, then by all means we are for it.

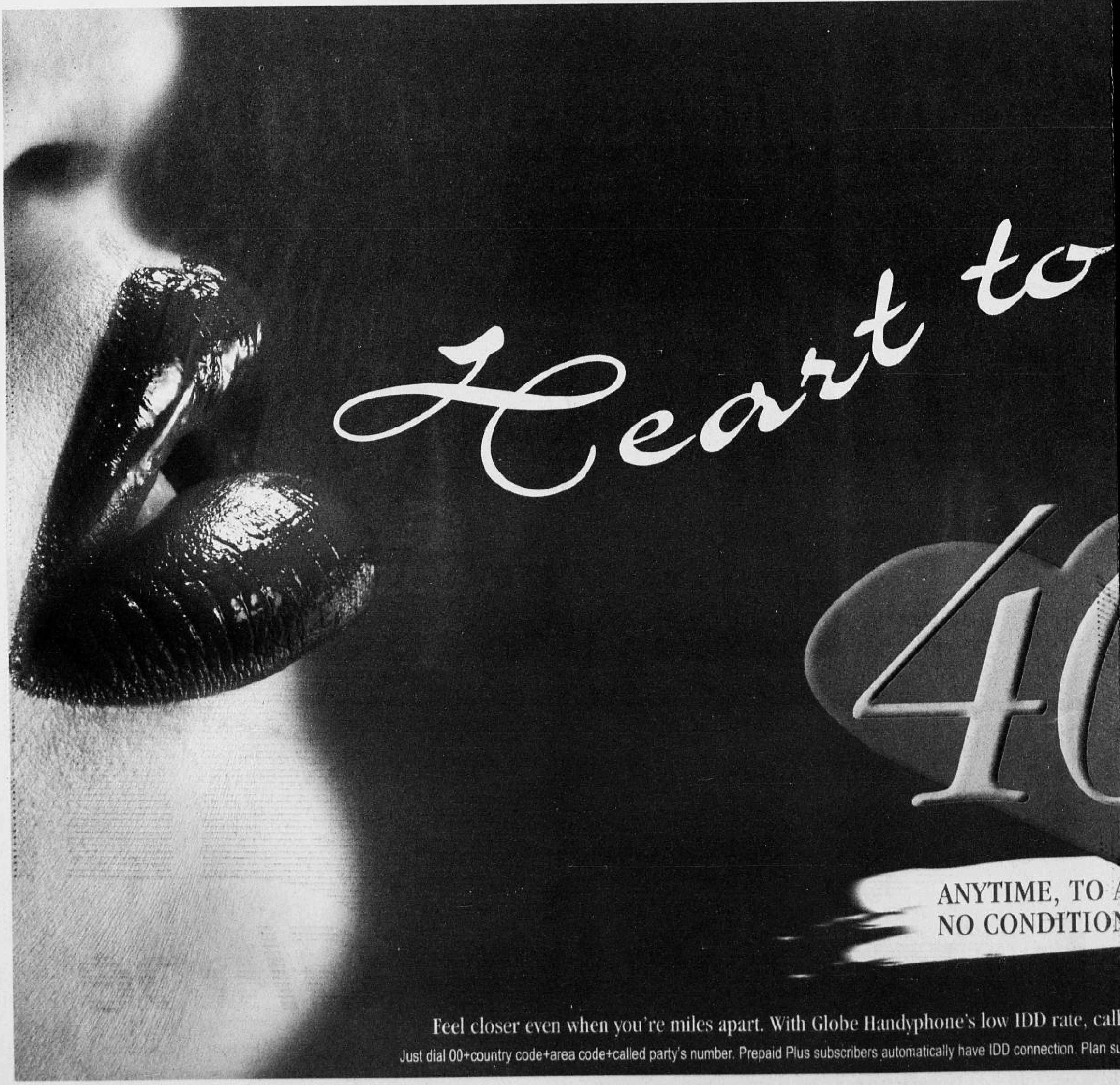
ABUSIVE SECURITY GUARDS. The guards of Glorietta 4 decided that the way to keep the crowd at the "2bU! and NU 107 Lord of the Rings Hangover Party" from being rowdy was to push them around, hit them with sticks and escort out other guests even if they weren't doing anything wrong.

At the Makati Stock Exchange, a guard pointed his shotgun at a group of people who were doing a pictorial at the park behind the building. The funny thing is—they had permit from Ayala and were actually working on an annual report for the company.

At the University of Santo Tomas, a guard (Arniel Ombing) locked up a bunch of behavioral science and journalism students at the Engineering complex because their volleyball practice ran overtime. One student had to climb the metal fence and plead with him to let the others out. He even sneered at them and said, "*Akala ko ba hindi na kayo uuwi*?" The reason their practice ended late? The guard refused to let them in earlier on.



P300 PREPAID CARDS FROM GLOBE. P250 was bad enough to shell out for one card. Now, P300? And what's the big difference? It's not like they're giving us more free text.



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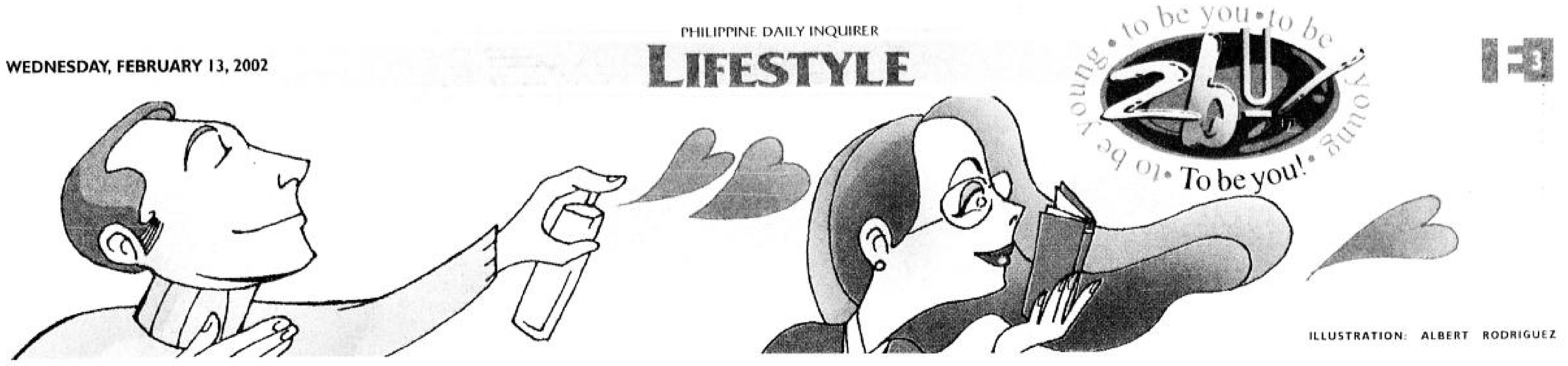
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ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Love story that inspired a perfume collection

Make Over 911

Kinny Salas

GUESS what I found out? Calvin Klein's fragrance collection was inspired by his love story. Picked up this interesting tidbit when I attended the launch of his limited edition fragrance—Eternity Rose Blush. There are only 900 bottles in the Philippines and I got one of them. It is available this month just in time for Valentine's Day in a 50-ml red collector's bottle. Before I get into details about Rose Blush, let me tell you about Calvin Klein's love story.

Upon meeting this particular woman, he could think of no one else but her. She filled his thoughts every moment of the day and it intoxicated him. "Obsession" was then born. Luckily, this woman fell in love with him and overwhelmed with joy he wasted no time and whisked her off her feet and married her. They swore to love each other forever and this inspired "Eternity." Such intense feeling is probably why to this day this remains to be CK's best-selling fragrance. They, of course, wanted nothing more than to be alone so they went on a honeymoon to "Escape" life's daily grind and have each other to themselves. I imagine they went to some tropical paradise or a place with a vineyard or fruit orchard because the perfume has such fruity scent.

First came love, then marriage, and baby "CK one." Their firstborn inspired a unisex fragrance. Could this have been a sign that the baby's sex didn't matter and they were just ecstatic about parenthood? The next scent involves conflicting stories. Some say it's baby number two while others say the children have grown so they wanted the latter to develop their talents and personalities, hence the name "CK be."

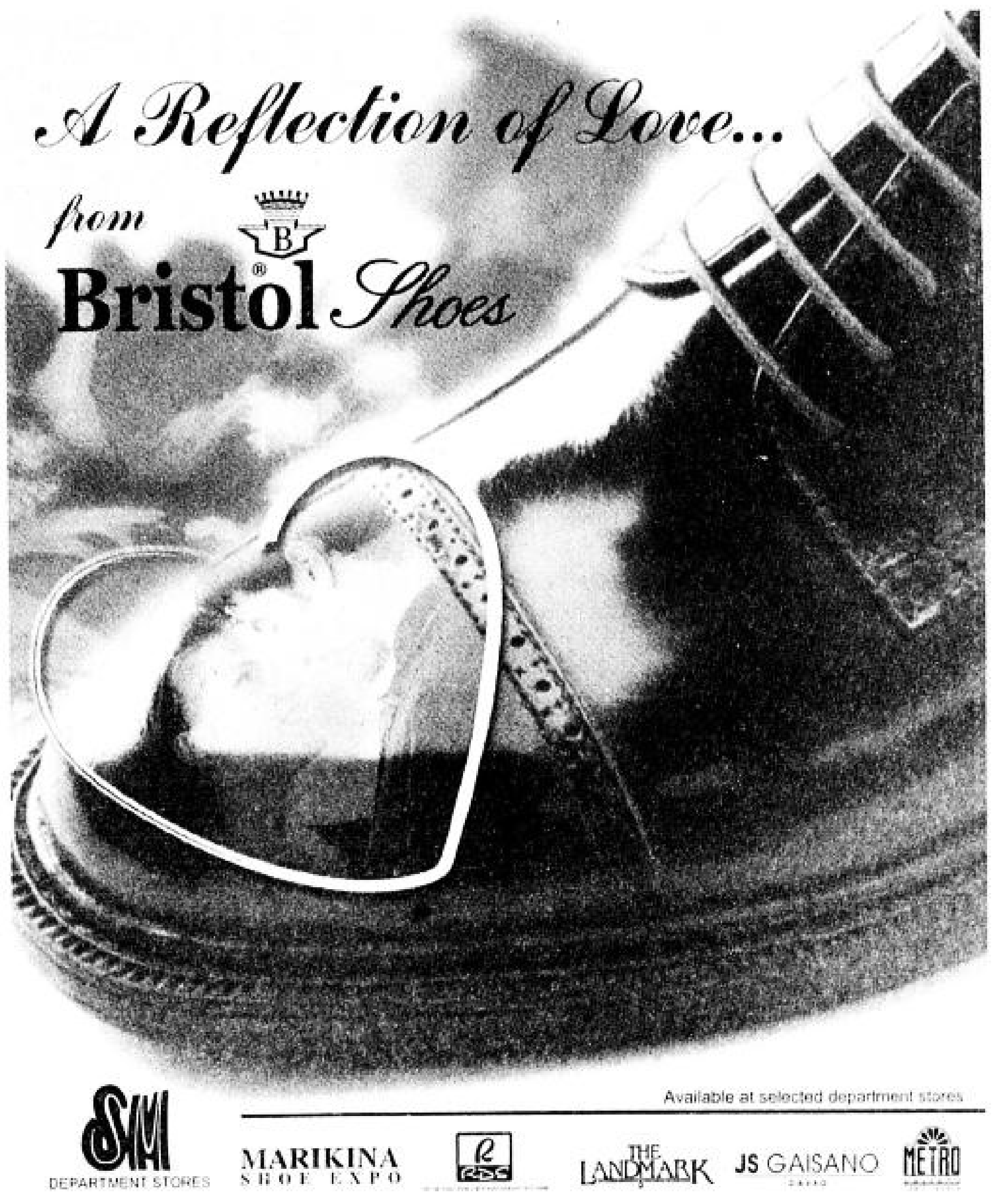
As expected with two passionate people, things got rocky in this seemingly perfect match. The king and queen started to clash so Calvin Klein conceptualized "Contradiction." The fairy tale could not be saved and the couple divorced. Hence came "Truth." Whether they became disillusioned with each other or snapped out of a long dream, we will never know.

Now just because his great romance is over doesn't mean he would want to spoil it for everybody else so he came up with the limited edition of Eternity Rose Blush, just in time for Valentine's Day. It is a good alternative to a bouquet of roses as it is more lasting and not every girl will be able to have it. There are only 900 bottles allotted per country where there is a Calvin Klein line. Eternity's name and bottle design, by the way, were inspired by the wedding ring the Duke of Windsor gave to Wallace Simpson which had the symbol of eternity engraved on it.

The subtle but romantic scent of roses is very apparent. Unlike most rose perfumes, this doesn't smell matronly or overpowering. The scent is subtle like cologne but has staying power because it's eau de parfum. It isn't obvious but there are other floral scents combined to make the rose smell jump out. These are freesia and dew drops. Its middle notes are the fruity tones of apricots and pears and the lingering bottom note is a mix of musk, sandalwood and warm amber.

Eternity RB also has shower gel and lotion. Available in 1.7 oz or 50-ml bottles at Rustan's, Landmark, SM and Robinsons department stores. The perfume costs P2,750. Happy Valentine's Day!

For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Make Over 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax at 897-4805.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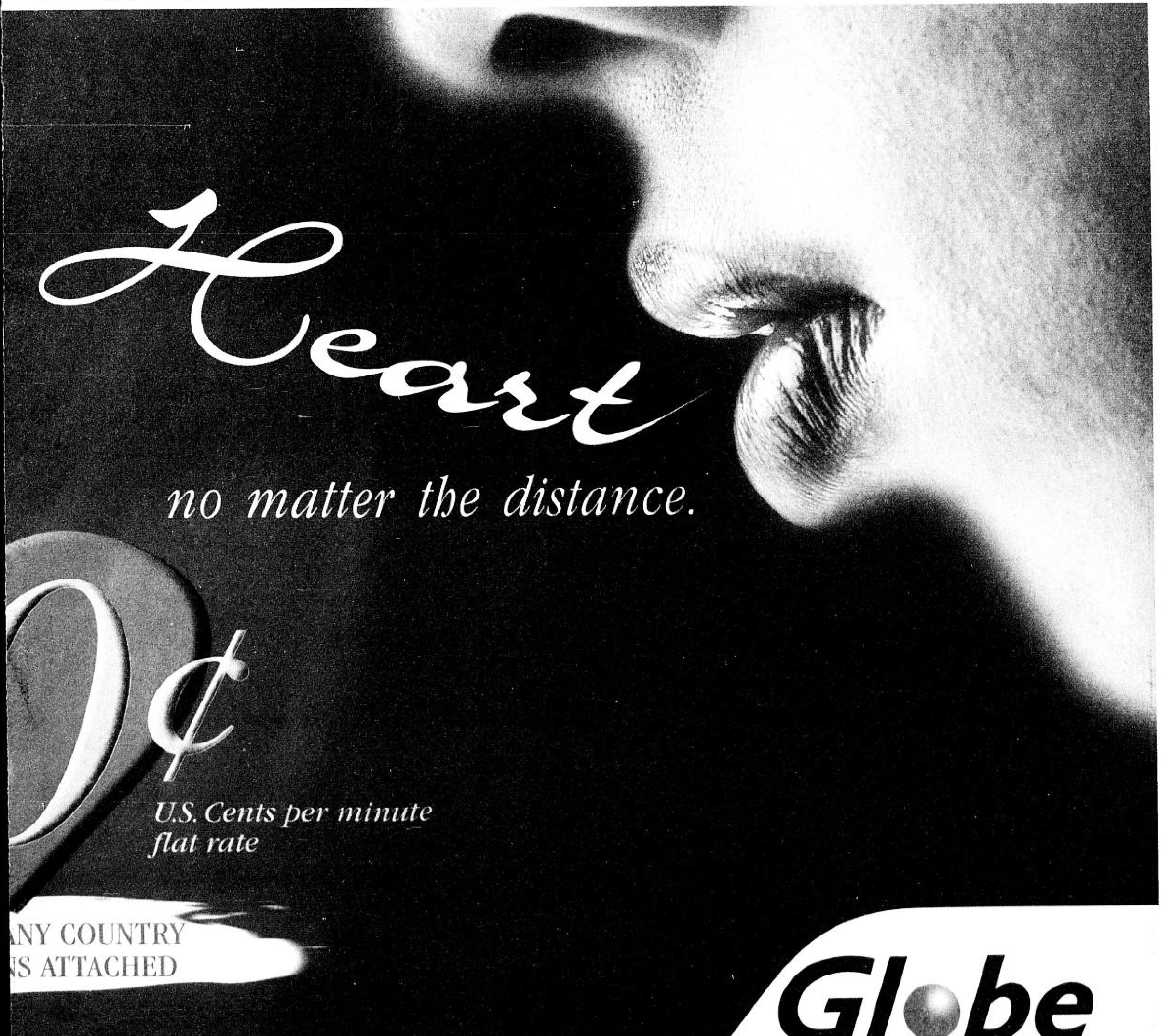
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The color of funk is Pink

P!nk
M!ssundaztood

PINK misspelled her album title "to piss off" her teachers.

From page E1

Tupac Shakur and adores Alanis Morissette, she prefers to be a clone of 4 Non Blondes' lead singer Linda Perry, whom she heavily idolizes. The group's "Bigger, Better, Faster, More" album was also one of Pink's favorites.

Perry's clone

"I used to sit in a corner in Doylestown with my two friends who played guitar and we'd sing 'What's Up,' 'Drifting' and 'Spaceman'," said Pink at a press conference organized by BMG Records at Singapore's Four Season's Hotel, prior to the first MTV Asia Awards early this month.

Pink also used to wear hats and combat boots to look and sound like Perry.

"Sometimes, I thought I was really her."

She doesn't get tired of recounting how she got to meet Perry and wrote a song with her only minutes after they had met.

She got Perry's number from a makeup artist's phone book and left a really long message on Perry's answering machine, including a story about being arrested for belting out Perry's songs at 3 a.m.

"I told her if she didn't return my call, I'd be her stalker," Pink related. "She called and said, 'You're crazy.' She made me go to her house. I sat down with her and she talked to me and asked me what I wanted to do."

That same night, Pink and Perry collaborated on "Eventually," a song that eventually landed on her second album, "M!ssundaztood," released by BMG Records.

"In the succeeding months, we talked a lot, wrote more songs and got tattoos," Pink said. She described her collaboration with Perry as "amazing, liberating, inspiring, what making music should be like."

Oldest teenager

Writing songs was a gift she discovered only much later. "I always wrote poetry because I was screwed up, lost and unhappy," she shared. "But all of a sudden, one day, I was so emotional and heard a melody. I wrote a few words, sat on the piano and that started it for me."

NEVER conventional, always funky.

It was at a night club stint in her native Philadelphia that she was spotted by a talent scout and recruited for an R&B group. Prior to that, she was a member of a choir in an all-black gospel church. She was also the only girl in a punk band before she sang background for the rap group Scratch n' Smoove. Outside music, she worked at Pizza Hut, McDonald's, Wendy's and a gas station.

"I was probably the oldest teenager who ever lived," Pink said. "I never had friends my own age. My best friend was an 85-year-old woman who lived across the street until my parents split up when I was 7."

Why Pink when her real name is Alicia Moore? She got the nickname for her complexion as a child, then for the color of her face whenever she's embarrassed and finally after the outgoing Mr. Pink in Quentin Tarantino's "Reservoir Dogs."

"I figured one day I'd also dye my hair to match my name, but I got bored," she said. "It wasn't important what color my hair or skin was. Pink is about the songs and their shocking emotional openness."

Signed up

Pink was only 16 when she was signed up by LaFace label of LA Reid and Babyface, who produced her double platinum debut album, "Can't Take Me Home." The carrier single, "There You Go," went gold and landed on the Top 10 songs, followed by "Most Girls" and "You Made Me Sick."

Pink earned her first No. 1 hit when she recorded with Christina Aguilera, Lil'Kim, Mya and Missy Elliott for the cover of the LaBelle '70s smash, "Lady Marmalade," for the "Moulin Rouge" soundtrack.

MTV named that track Video of the Year and Best Video from a Film.

"I used to want to throw my success in the face of every teacher who told me I wouldn't be [worth] shit," Pink said. "But now, I'm so happy, I can do what I love without having to answer to some a--hole boss. If not for music, I'd be in trouble all the time. Music saved my life. It still does."

In "M!zzundaztood," Pink displays a mix of old and new styles. She helped write nearly a dozen of the album's 15 tracks with three producers—Linda Perry, Atlanta hitmaker Dallas Austin and fellow Philadelphian Scott Storch. The album features performances of Aerosmith's Steven Tyler and Bon Jovi's Richie Sambora in the cut, "Misery," which Pink describes as a "Janis Joplin-style ballad."

With the boldness of her music, -Pink wants to inspire a new generation of dedicated listeners. She says "M!ssundaztood" is real music you can live or die to, with songs that make you want to stand up and change your life.

"I love good music and, to me, good music doesn't have a category," she said. "So that was my motivation. Life was my inspiration and everything just fell into place. Sometimes it takes a tragedy to bring us together. Sometimes it just takes music."

With Storch, whom she described as a "sweetheart," Pink wrote "Family Portrait," a painful song about her not-so-pretty growing-up years in Philadelphia.

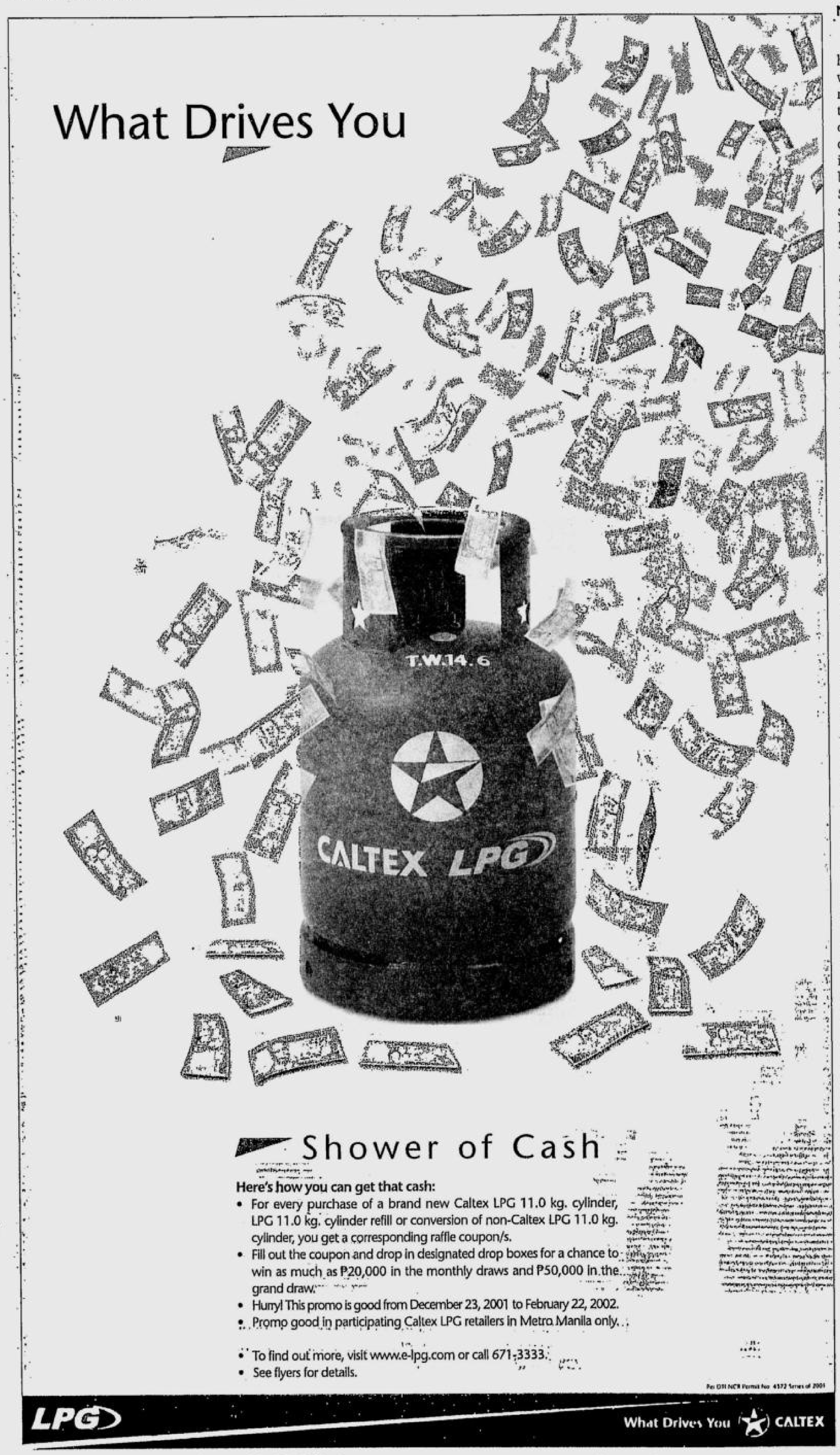
"I was a child raised by parents who fought all the time and eventually divorced," Pink offered. "I realized how my life was affected. I wanted to talk about it and through a song is the best way I know how. But to sing that song was like being naked in an auditorium of people. My mom cried for four days when she heard it. My dad, too. It makes me sad, but it also helped release some of my feelings. Pain is not always a bad thing. It can be a learning thing."

At the first MTV Asia Awards in Singapore, Pink gave the audience a sample of her larger-than-life performance. She was the only artist who managed to ignite excitement when she made her entrance on a motorcycle, which definitely set the pace for her adrenaline-pumping number.

For all her unconventionality, the 22-year-old Pink is a romantic at heart. She will spend Valentine's Day with her boyfriend in Australia.

"I asked my whole band what I should do and they suggested to surprise him," she said, "so I'm flying him to Australia."

"I'M A PINK Smurf."



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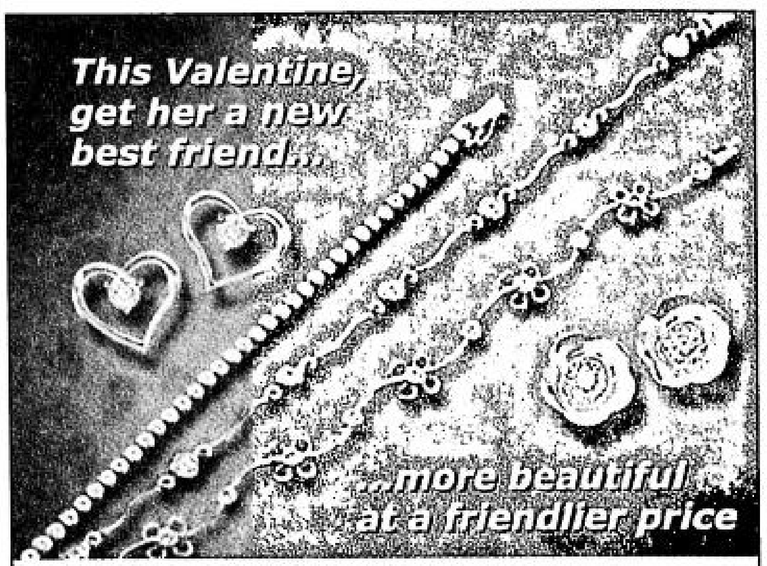
Boyfriend Makeover 101

(Story on page F2)

He's lovable, a gentleman, but quite lost in fashion. Never mind. With style magic, he can easily transform into a Mark Sheckenberg, an Alex Lundkvist, or a Mark Van der Loo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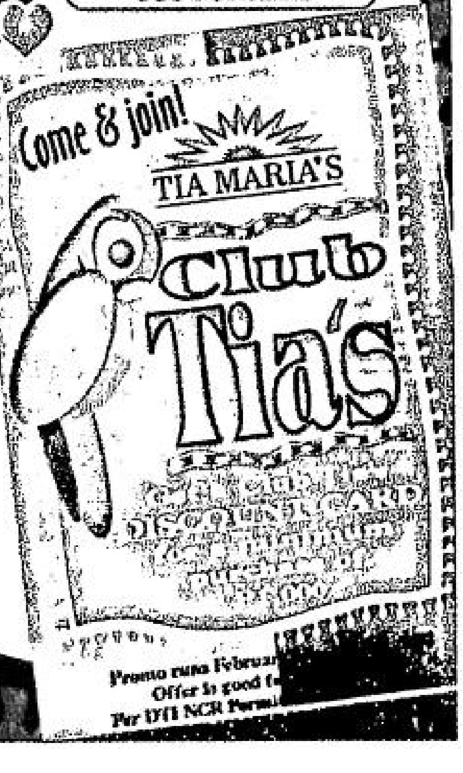
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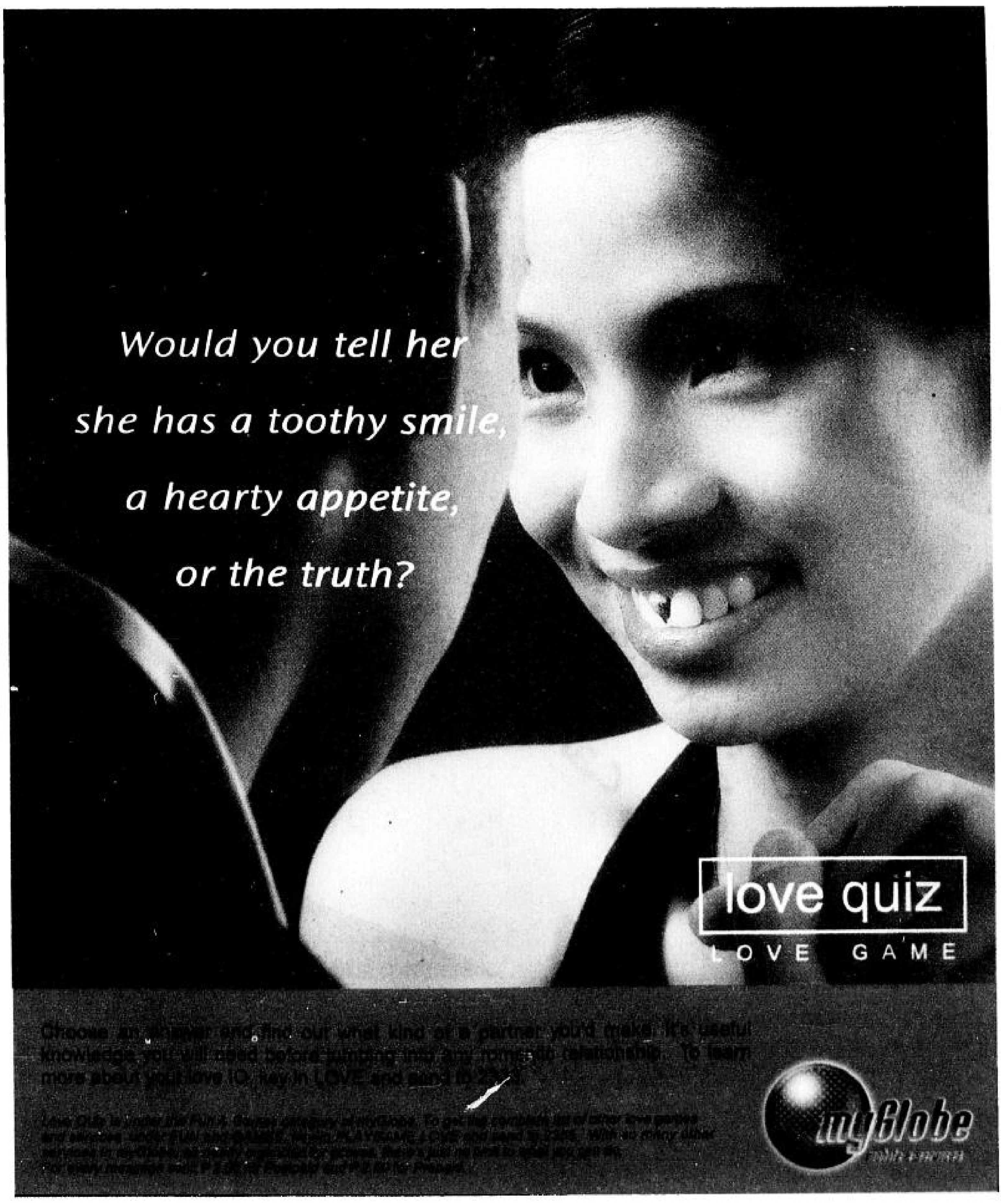
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myGlobe

LEE USA Co.-11 black top, P429.75; men's jacket with hood, P1,299.75; Lee Pipes fatigue cargo pants, P1,099.75

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Boyfriend Makeover 101

By Jules Alcantara
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Mike Alquinto

SAY the word "makeover" and girls—even those whose names are not Cher and don't look like Alicia Silverstone—go definitely bonkers!

We can never stop talking about getting a new haircut or hair color. A trip to the spa or buying a whole new wardrobe—these are some things that come into mind whenever one needs to be lifted out of the dumps or when one wants to break the cycle of monotony. Even changing the color of one's nail polish can bring a change in mood. A makeover gives us " a sense of control in a world full of chaos," as a line goes in the movie, "Clueless."

But control was definitely not what Rachel Rivero had in mind when she decided to join 2bU!'s invite to do a boyfriend makeover. Reading between the lines of her e-mail to 2bU!, it seems that love was the motivation.

"My honey has no fashion sense whatsoever. It's like when he chooses what to wear, he opens his cabinet, closes his eyes and wears whatever he picks first so it's not even coordinated! I really love him and I'm not ashamed to go malling with him or to introduce him to family and friends even if he is a fashion disaster. I have accepted him and I once asked why he dresses as such and he simply said, 'I don't want to get kidnapped or robbed.' I think he's taking it to the extreme," she writes. "And I just wanted to see him out of his 'holy' shirts—you know, those shirts full of holes!"

Opposites

The adage "opposites attract" rings true especially in the case of Rachel and Harold. While Rachel is a very outgoing girl with a "strong personality," Harold is quiet and is the type who can easily get along with any type of crowd. Rachel is very much into the theater arts and Harold can simply not get enough of playing Counterstrike and RPGs. In fact, when they first met, he hardly said a word to her.

"And I didn't even say hello to him! All I said was, 'Harold... lots of memories with that name' and I ran off," she recalls and explains further that she used to go out with another guy with the same name. Her first impression was that Harold was a bum, what with the long hair and "rugged, drab outfit." On their first date, which was a blind date ("We were set up by a friend," she says) the first thing he told her was to "buckle up." He was so quiet and she was so nervous that she kept yakking the whole trip, from UP to CCP, where they were supposed to watch a play.

An item

Then followed a series of dates, which eventually prompted their friends to ask if they were an item. Not one to leave things unresolved, she told him that they needed "to talk." Needless to say, the "talk" ended on a positive note—they have been together for three years.

"He's different. He's different from all the guys that I've known," she replies when asked what attracted her to Harold. "And he makes me laugh. And not only that, he's the kind of guy who doesn't really care what other people say," she adds.

The last quality then could perhaps explain why Harold's daily uniform consists of shorts, ratty old T-shirt and rubber shoes that have seen better days. "And he wears these socks that have been with him since Grade 7," she exclaims. "His friend always kid him, 'Harold, *ang lawak ng bahay mo ah!*'" Rachel says.

Shocked

When told that Rachel volunteered him for 2bU!'s boyfriend makeover, he was shocked. "'You did what?' he asked. Of course I was really persistent in convincing him plus the doe eyes never fail me," she says with a knowing smile when asked how she managed to convince him to do the makeover.

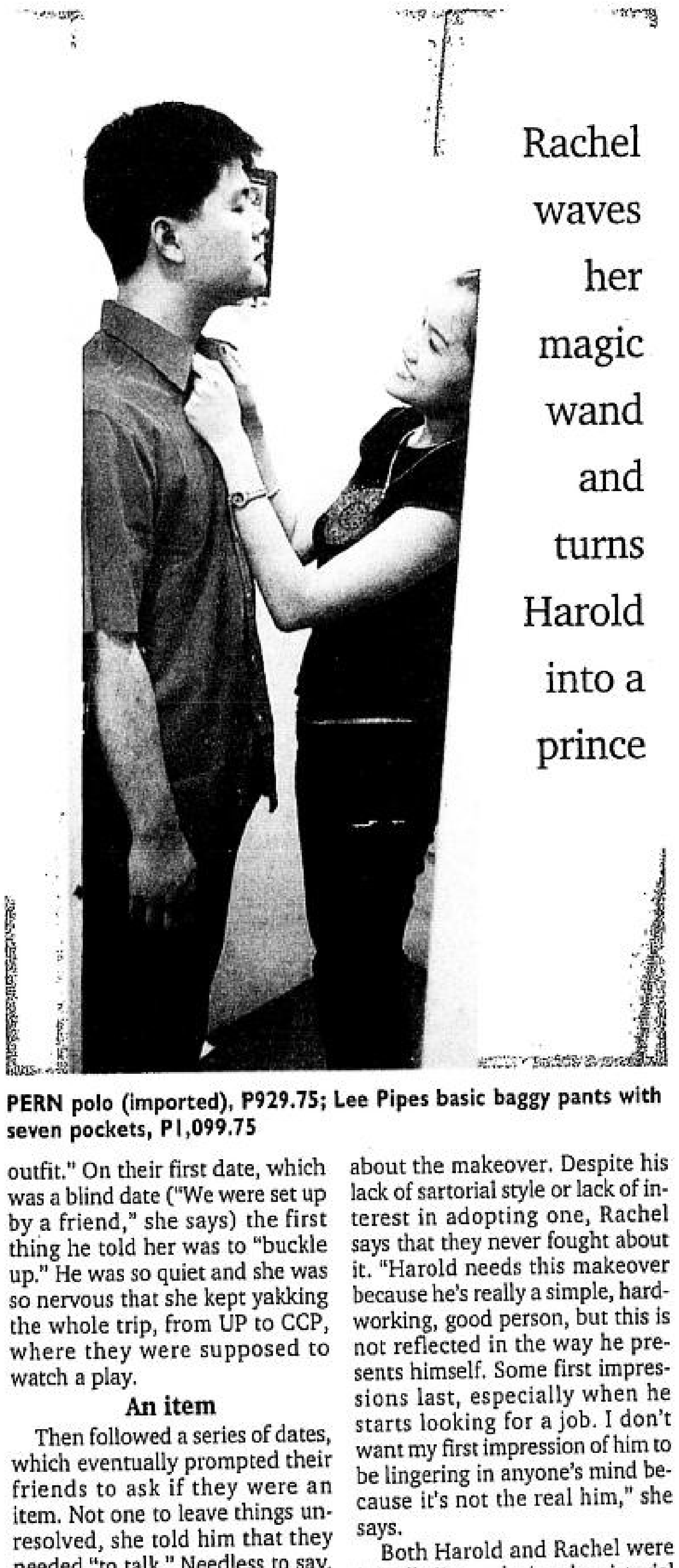
"I didn't get upset," Harold says when asked how he felt when told about the makeover. Despite his lack of sartorial style or lack of interest in adopting one, Rachel says that they never fought about it. "Harold needs this makeover because he's really a simple, hardworking, good person, but this is not reflected in the way he presents himself. Some first impressions last, especially when he starts looking for a job. I don't want my first impression of him to be lingering in anyone's mind because it's not the real him," she says.

Both Harold and Rachel were initially jittery during the pictorial at Lee's branch in Galleria. She was busy looking for clothes that would suit him well. Harold was not exactly a sight to behold in the beginning as he tried to get used to being the center of everyone's attention, not to mention being the subject of our photographer's lenses.

"He doesn't know how to smile for the camera! I mean, without it and it's all natural, he's okay. He kind of reminds me of Chandler on 'Friends.' You know, that episode wherein he and Monica pose for their engagement pictures and he doesn't know how to smile? Harold is like that!" Rachel says.

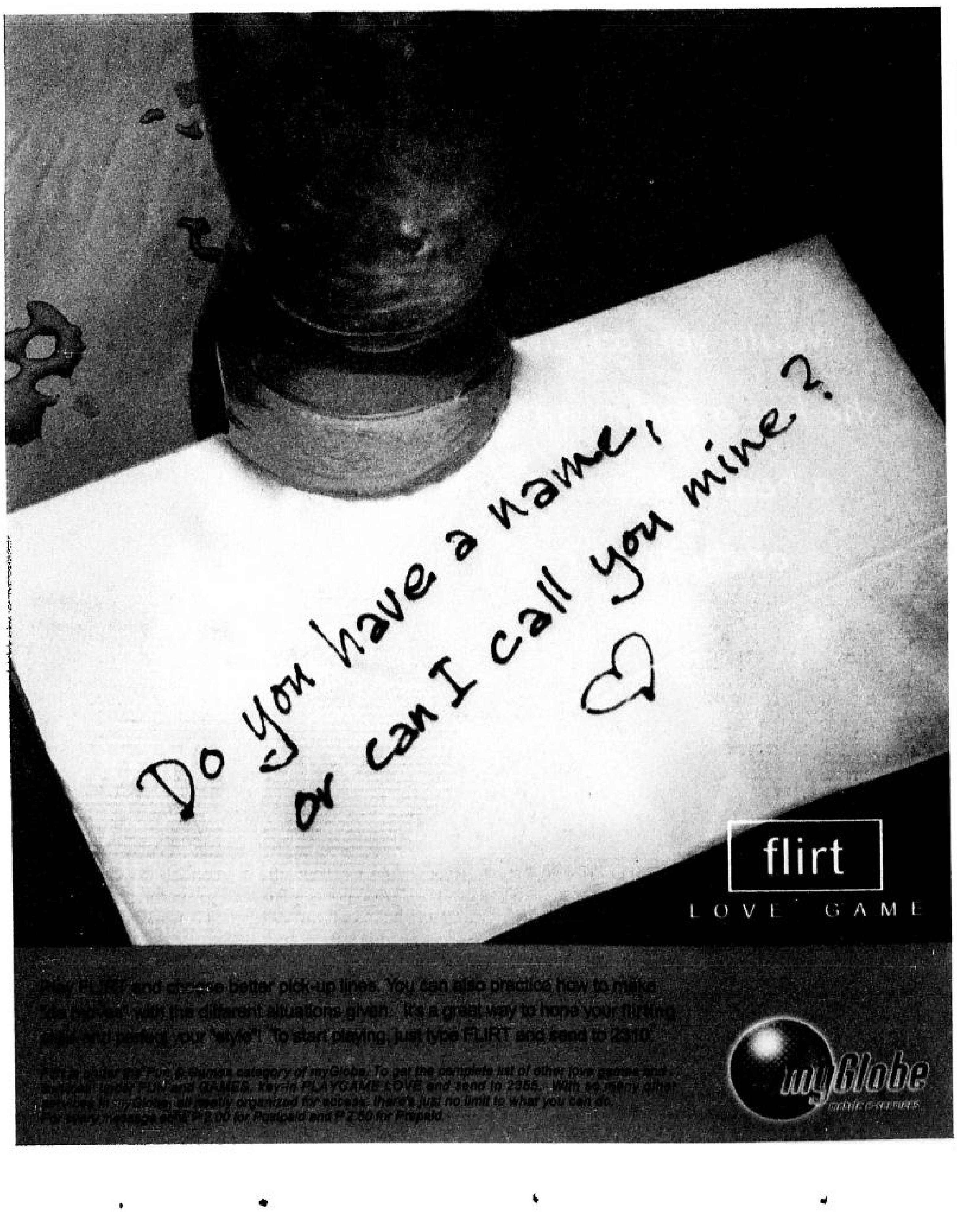
Before we knew it, Harold was having fun hamming it up for the photographer to the tune of " Butterfly" by Crazy Town. He was still game even when our trusty photographer Mike Alquinto made him pose beside the mannequins and people were staring at him.

Who wouldn't be? Harold was looking so fine in Lee's clothes that we could hardly distinguish him from the grubby young guy who entered the store with a gorgeous girl in tow. The makeover paid off handsomely for the couple.



Rachel waves her magic wand and turns Harold into a prince

PERN polo (imported), P929.75; Lee Pipes basic baggy pants with seven pockets, P1,099.75



Play FLIRT and choose better pick-up lines. You can also practice how to make "[illegible]" with the different situations given. It's a great way to hone your flirting skills and perfect your "style"! To start playing, just type FLIRT and send to 2310.

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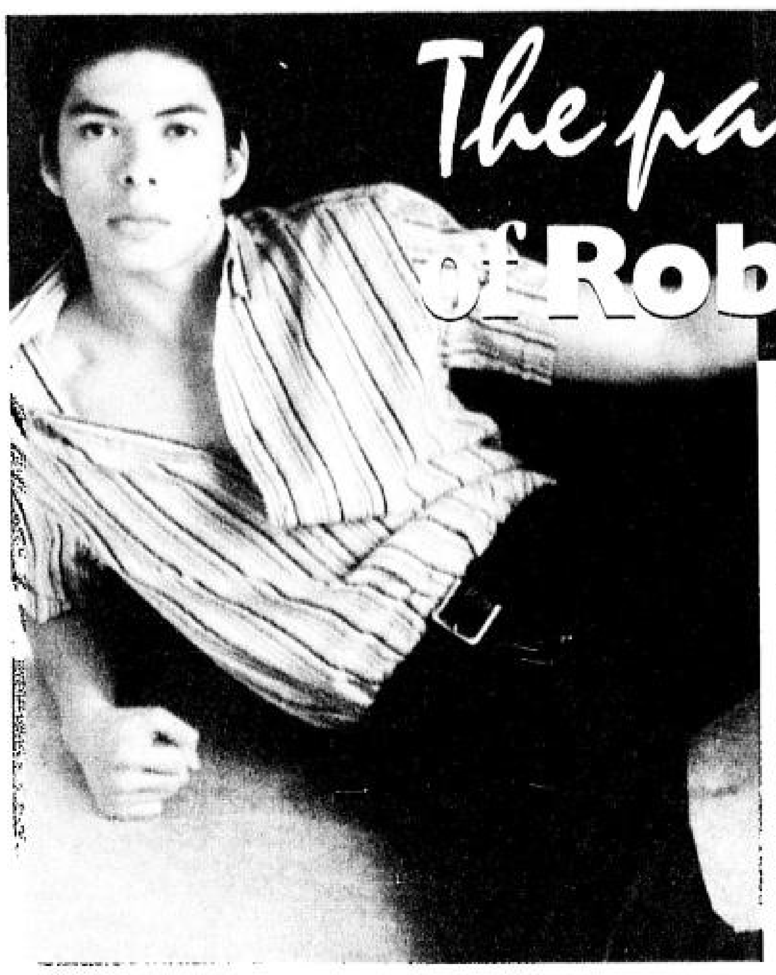
The passions of Robby Mananquil



The new Bench image model is into the visual arts, music, writing, acting, modeling and sports. What can't he do? 'Telling myself I can't do it,' he says

IT'S not easy to pin down Robby Mananquil, the newest image model for Bench. It's not so much that he moves around a lot, and moves around fast.

It's rather because he's into so many things. He is a visual artist, does computer design, plays in a band, composes music, writes, acts, does ramp and commercial modeling, plays basketball and football, organizes events and can even carry a conversation in Norwegian. What can't he do? "Telling myself I can't do it," he says.

It's no surprise that the 6' tall and 162-pound 22-year-old has caught the attention of Bench, the lifestyle clothing company that made him one of three new young guys to sport its brand image. The others are teenage movie and TV actor John Pratts, to convey the well-scrubbed, casual and energetic spirit of the very young; and John Hall, the in-your-face sexy, young executive from Cebu, to provoke everyone with Bench underwear. They join the stable of Bench purebreds—Richard Gomez, Jomari Yllana, Borgy Manotoc and Diether Ocampo.

Mananquil, the son of journalists, majored in painting at the University of the Philippines. He has been painting since he was a small boy, his favorites being superheroes and cars (he now tinkers with, not just draws, cars). At 6 he won first prize in an on-the-spot art contest and was consistently best in art winner at the Ateneo de Manila grade school.

Already exhibiting his work before his graduation in 2001, his murals hang in Cabalen restaurant in SM City and Merced Bakeshop on Edsa. He has also done some two dozen portraits for three of Mangan's branches.

Spare

He leans more toward minimalism for its quintessential spareness of thought and execution. He would like to have a one-man show, which will be "more or less a display of modern art as translated by Robby Mananquil, very well thought-of and something I really worked hard at."

As an artist, he wants to connect to his audience and make them "feel and understand" his work, but he finds it difficult to part with his work. "I have a difficult time saying yes to people interested in buying them," he says.

His passion for painting is matched only by his love for music. In his second year of high school, as an exchange student at Norway's Stokmarknes Videregaende Skole, he played lead guitar in a band named Horse Called War, which included four Norwegians and an American. He composed 10 songs for the band, some with Norwegian lyrics he himself wrote.

Musical life

"Music is a very big part of my life. I can't imagine life without it," confides Mananquil, who also worked as a DJ. He would like to play in a band again and compose his own songs. "I would like to reach out to my listeners through my music," he says.

He appreciates all kinds of music, although his compositions tend to be mellower "rock with a grungie feel, the alternative kind." His musical influences range from Jimi Hendrix and Led Zeppelin to Metallica, Guns n' Roses, Pearl Jam, Rage Against the Machine and Linkin Park.

He thinks Pinoy bands such as Cheese, Rivermaya, Barbie's Cradle, Eraserheads, Teeth, Slapshock, Cynthia Alexander, The Dawn, Wolfgang and the Brownbeat All Stars are "really getting better." "Pinoy innovation and creativity are flourishing not only in the music scene but in other fields as well," he observes.

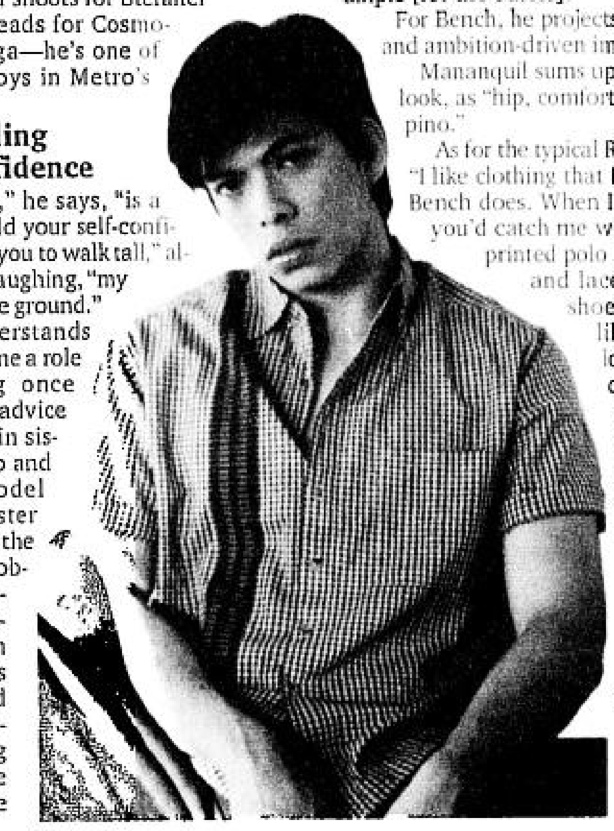
Mananquil also yearns to be an "*artista*." He was invited by an Atenean friend last year to join the ABS-CBN Star Circle. After passing the audition, he attended workshops almost every night for three months, keeping it a secret from his parents by saying he was out for band practice. When his parents finally found out, they were half amused, but also half disappointed because they wanted him to take postgraduate studies in art in Europe or the United States.

But Mananquil is more intent on exploring another artistic side—acting—which he says "is also like painting in the sense that when you act or when you paint you release your emotions." He does not want to be just another show-biz hopeful, but an artist exploring his art in another medium. Thus, he would rather be an actor than a movie star.

He's now taking advanced acting at the Talent Center of ABS-CBN and guesting on mass-appeal vehicles such as "Da Pilya and Da Pilot" and "Atta Girl."

One of the most in-demand male models in town, he's done the ramps for Inno Sotto, Rhett Eala, "Fashion Watch," "MTV Fashionista." He's done commercial shoots for Stefanel and fashion spreads for Cosmopolitan and Mega—he's one of the Calendar Boys in Metro's January issue.

Building self-confidence



"The catwalk," he says, "is a great way to build your self-confidence. It teaches you to walk tall," although he says, laughing, "my feet are still on the ground."

Mananquil understands he has also become a role model. Having once handled 2bU!'s advice column with twin sister Rissa, a ramp and commercial model like younger sister Raya, he knows the gravity of the problems of teenagers. "It's depressing to see them abusing drugs and alcohol and cigarettes... I believe that young people who are constantly in the public eye have the responsibility to set an example [for the others]."

For Bench, he projects a clean-living, active and ambition-driven image.

Mananquil sums up the trademark Bench look, as "hip, comfortable and proudly Filipino."

As for the typical Robby Mananquil look: "I like clothing that fits my body well, like Bench does. When I have fashion shoots, you'd catch me wearing denims with a printed polo or with long pullovers and laced-up, sleek-looking shoes. [In the evening] I like wearing rolled-up long sleeves tucked into decent slacks [or] just dark denims [for laidback *gimiks*]." He wears denims with a jacket over a plain shirt with sneakers when visiting cold places out-of-town, and sandals with shorts and a polo shirt in warmer climes.

At home, he is comfortable in sando and athletic shorts, and is usually tinkering with his black BMW.

Fabulous apparel at reasonable prices

SCRIMPING on your fashion budget? Worry no more for you can still enjoy the most fabulous finds as Topshop, Topman and Miss Selfridge go on sale until Feb. 17.

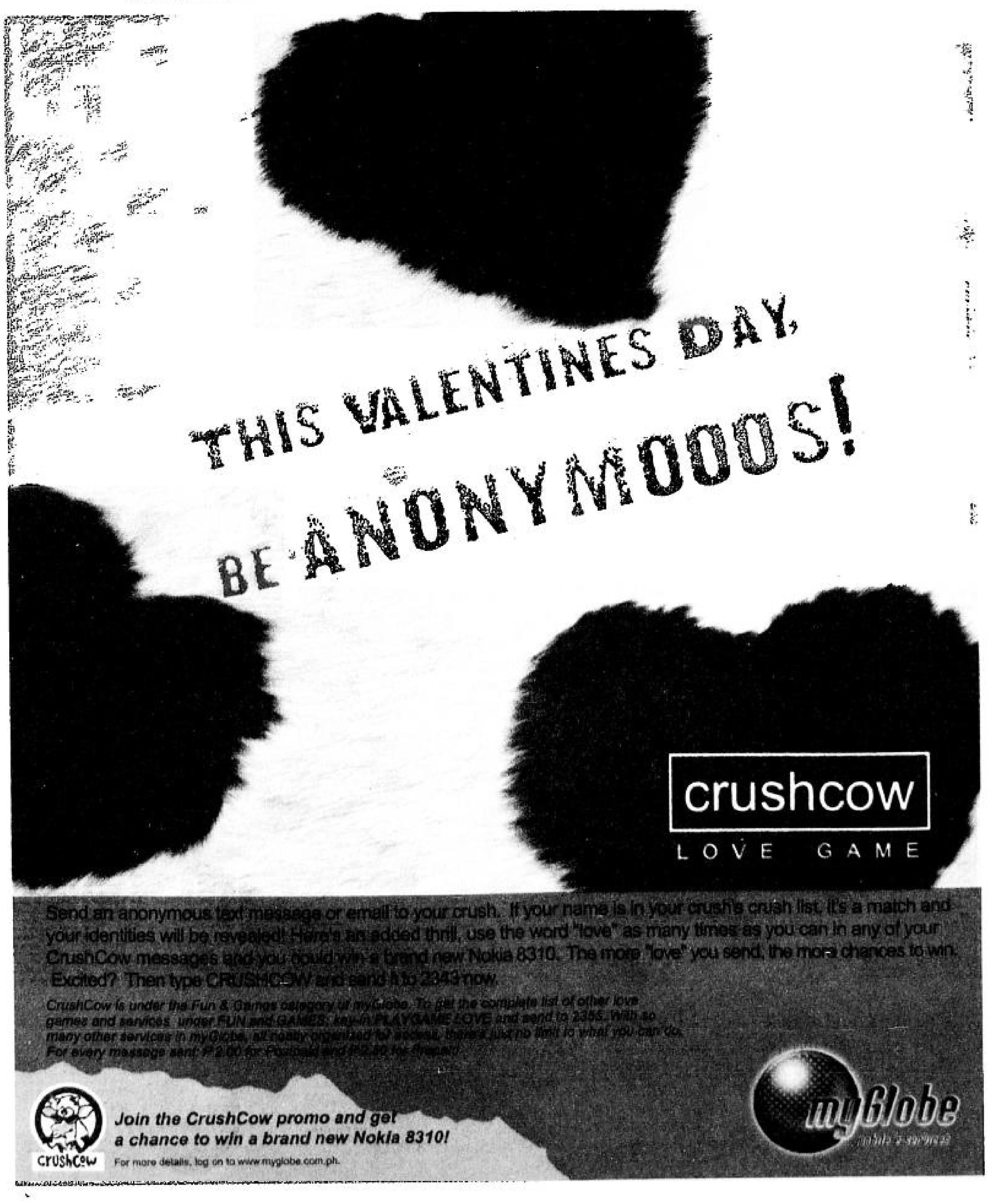
Enjoy up to 50-percent discount on a wide selection of casual wear and clubwear in the most fun and funkiest colors and designs.

Display casual chic with Topshop's collection of ruffled blouses; shirred and ruch waist sleeveless tops; sleeveless camisoles; striped rugby shirts; denim jeans, skirts and boob tubes; jersey vests; and lace dresses.

But if you want to bring out the inner gamine in you, let Miss Selfridge take you to the right fashion direction. Think sexy and flirtatious must-haves—all at very reasonable prices.

For the stylish man on the go, there are loads of choices as well. Topman has tie-dyed denim pants, trendy crewneck shirts and sweatshirts with hoods, and smart-knitted check shirts, among others, to help him achieve the right look with the minimum of effort.

Topshop, Topman and Miss Selfridge are on the 2/L Padre Faura Wing, Robinsons Place Manila.



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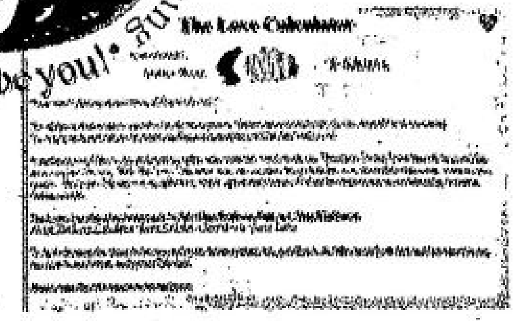


SIGN UP FREE

Looking for love on the Internet

By Gabriel H. Mercado
2bU! Correspondent

WHAT can one expect to find by entering the word "love" in a search engine, or looking for "love" on the Internet to begin with? Can one hope to find a match, discuss love issues, or maybe satisfy an urge for love?

Or will one get a definition of love in a clinical sense? The answer may be all of the above and more.

The vastness of the Net will not disappoint when it comes to providing any or all possible applications of "love" from the fun to the boring, from the cute to the somewhat racy. Here's a sampling of what we found:

Fun

The Lovecalculator (www.lovecalculator.com)

Lovecalculator.com is a simple site with "fields" where one enters the names of the two people concerned. It does not ask for any other details. After entering our names, my girlfriend and I were informed we had a 00 percent chance of staying together: "Dr. Love thinks a relationship might work out, but the chance is very small. A successful relationship is possible, but you both have to work on it."

Think you're so smug don't you, Dr. Love? Unfazed, I entered the names in reverse order. Same result. Next I tried our given names, instead of nicknames. The result? Twenty-eight percent but with the warning: "The chance of a relationship working out is not very big, but a relationship is very well possible, if the two of you really want it to, and are prepared to make some sacrifices for it." Far from perfect, but I'll take it.

The site is so simple and fast and well, I'll admit it, just silly enough to be fun. I quickly entered names of friends, crushes and yes, exes. It might interest (or not) Donita Rose to know that we have a 54 percent chance of making it or, as the site says, a "reasonable chance of working out." My parents seemed to be really meant for each other with a 98 percent rating, but I already knew that. Shakespeare wouldn't be disappointed. Romeo and Juliet also got 98 percent. As for my exes? Well, wouldn't they like to know!

The LoveTest (www.lovetest.com)

This offers "The Free Internet Lovetest," which calculates the compatibility between you and your heartthrob." It also has a Numerology Lovetest, Fortuneteller, Compatibility Analysis, Lovetest Music Quiz and, of course (what Love site would be without it), a "Lovetest Thermometer" that promises to analyze various aspects of an existing relationship. After reading the brief intro, I signed up.

kiss.com
JOIN NOW!

The vastness of the Net will not disappoint when it comes to providing any or all possible applications of 'love'

A warning for others though: Before signing up for any of these things, remember to protect your privacy and try to enter as few personal details as possible. I got the results after entering my alternative e-mail addresses and others, and after replying to lengthy questionnaires and "compatibility tests."

These things are, of course, to be taken with a grain of salt, but Lovetest.com really tries hard to make the results as credible as possible with its horoscope, numerology and other techniques. But the results take time, which Internet surfers do not like to waste. Lovecalculator, being far less detailed, was more fun for me. But those who want detailed explanations might prefer this site.

Looking for love

It's kind of ironic how, after all the hype about how the Internet will change business, matchmaking is among the few types of Internet businesses flourishing these days.

Some of the sites are: Match.com, Kiss.com, Webpersonals.com, Cupidjunction.com, Friendfinder.com and, for local ones, Match.ph.

The mail-order bride business is conducted through the likes of Filipina.com and Filipinawife.com.

I cannot say if the sites are legitimate or not, but obviously they've been around for quite sometime, boast thousands of members and have outlasted many more serious Internet businesses. They must be doing something right. Although some many find them offensive, they provide an honest and much-needed service.

You think you got what it takes to join one? Well, it won't hurt to follow some basic rules: Never give your home address or phone number to anybody. When meeting people face-to-face, always choose a public place with lots of other people. If possible, take a friend on your first meeting with an online friend. Ask for pictures of the other person—if possible get pictures in both casual and formal clothes so you can compare if it is the same person on both.

Facts and sellouts

Allsands

Finally a site that explains what Valentine is all about. There may be slightly differing versions, but apparently a priest in ancient times was spreading love by allowing marriages in spite of a law prohibiting it. The action brought him fame and, eventually, sainthood.

Truth be told, this can't be the most romantic thing anyone has ever done in the history of humankind. But helped along by a Pope looking for a way to promote saintly activities, St. Valentine and Valentine's Day are honored until now.

No doubt sites like YourValentines.com and Valentines.com are eternally grateful for this tradition. These sites really don't need much review, since their main purpose is to sell things, pretty much like what Valentine's Day has turned into.

Of all the sites about love, matchmaking sites really make the most use of the Internet's ability to bring like-minded people together, with compatibility testing and the fun sites coming second. All the others are merely informative and/or are trying to sell something.

The Internet is really drastically changing love, or at least the way people meet and communicate with each other. Much like other technologies that promise to make things better, this one should also be handled with an open mind and some healthy hesitation, if not more.

E-mail the author at gary@exchange.ph

Ateneo's post-Valentine celebration

THE ATENEO Junior Marketing Association presents its post-Valentine offering and the first-ever outdoor movie event in Ateneo's history. Called "CinemAJMA," the event is an outdoor movie and mini-fair rolled into one. It will be held at the Ateneo Bellarmine Field on Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. Different booths will feature a variety of gimmicks and a band will be playing during the intermission. Two movies will be shown for that night. Make this a night to reminisce as you watch the classic "An Affair to Remember" while cuddling your special someone. Enjoy the beautiful story of "The Princess Bride" with your friends or family. If you still want to celebrate Valentine's Day, then this is the event for you.

Cyber romance

can be just as true or false as the low-tech version

By Melissa Telan
2bU! Correspondent

Finding true love is possible online but don't go 'chatting' just to look for it

I FIRST heard of a cyber-relationship when my friend Diane (not her real name) had one five years ago. She met her cyber-boyfriend, a 20-year-old Canadian named Jeremy, at one of the mIRC chatrooms she frequented. He was charming, interesting and so much older than most of the guys she knew (she was just 14 then). She swore it was true love.

For months she stayed up late, sometimes until dawn, chatting online and e-mailing him on a regular basis. She swooned over his moviestar looks (he sent a picture), captivated by his husky Canadian drawl (they swapped phone numbers and he called her once) and, all in all, flattered by the attention he showered her.

When I asked her if she wanted to join me on a trip to Vancouver, Canada to spend summer with my aunt, she practically skipped on her way to ask her parents' permission. Diane was ecstatic when they let her join the Canada trip.

But things soured for Diane in Canada. Whenever she called Jeremy, which was pretty often, he was never home. All of a sudden he stopped sending e-mail. He also disappeared from the chatrooms. Though we were naïve teenagers then, we got the message: Jeremy wasn't serious about Diane. My poor friend came home brokenhearted but wiser, at least about cyber-relationships.

In love with an idea

In a cyber relationship, a thin line separates being truly in love with another person and being in love with just the idea of him or her. Despite stories of couples falling in love before setting eyes on each other, I believe that technology should only be used as a tool for meeting people. Cyber relationships that rely solely on technology rarely work because they lack one thing: the human touch. No matter how many love quotes you send or how hot your conversations on the phone are, a cyber romance can never be without warm embraces or sweet kisses.

Still, cyber relationships flourish. What makes virtual friendships so enticing is that it is so easy to reveal your true self without fear of being judged or getting a biased hearing. Sadly, the opposite is also true. It's a dangerous world out there, and many people are not who they claim to be.

When one is being honest while the other is not, problems will surely arise especially when love is involved.

Jack, 19, met Paola in a chatroom. He got her cell phone number and they became constant textmates. Through the text messages and their chats, they professed their love for each other. Jack found it strange, though, that Paola would not talk to him on the phone. The relationship continued this way for months until Jack suggested a meeting. When Paola didn't show up, Jack was naturally hurt. But the reason for Paola's no-show proved to be even more mind-blowing: Paola was actually Paolo. Jack finally understood why "she" didn't want to talk to him. The lesson: Don't give your heart to someone who won't talk to you on the phone.

Another problem in cyber relationship is when a person starts imagining how his or her cyber friend will look. A cyber couple can happily exchange endless phone calls, text messages and e-mail for months. But one face-to-face meeting can instantly dispel the rosy haze, both feeling deceived because reality does not even come close to what the imagination has conjured. The solution: exchange pictures from the very start of a virtual relationship.

Happy endings

But not all cyber relationships end on a sour note. There have been wonderful stories about people finding love in cyberspace and living happily ever after.

Joy and Norman met in the chatrooms in 1998 and had a long courtship. It took months before they talked on the phone and several more weeks before they finally met in Joy's house in Quezon City.

Norman had two surprises for Joy on that first meeting. First, he told her he liked her and, second, he brought a huge snowman stuffed toy, which she was to find out cost P3,000. But it still was an uncomfortable meeting. They barely talked to each other. The next day, Joy was surprised when Norman paged her nonstop. His incessant paging, which went on for weeks, irritated Joy. When the paging eased, she began to miss him. Then it hit her: she liked the guy.

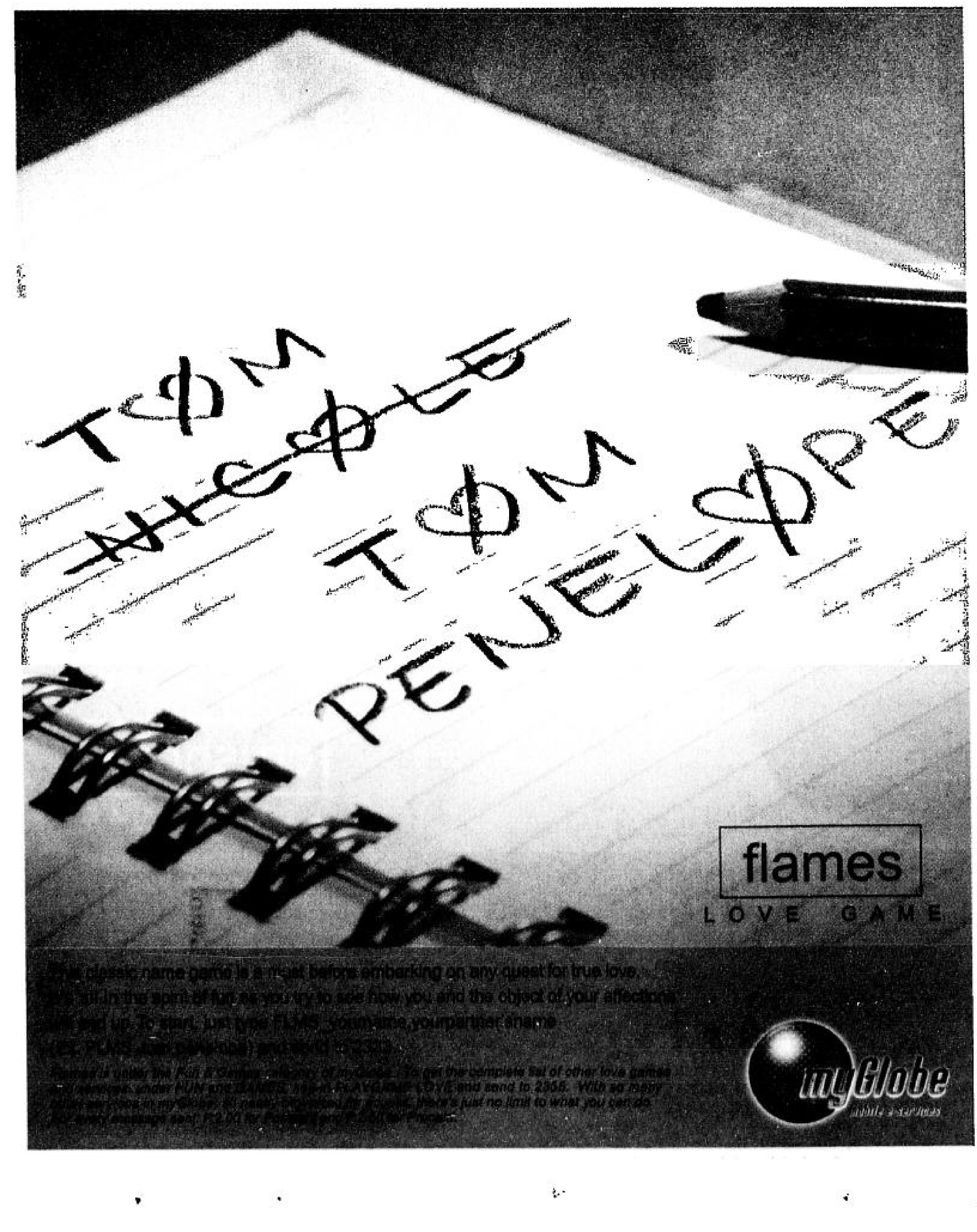
It took another year before Norman would ask Joy to be his girlfriend. They have been together for three years since and Joy always recalls that first encounter with a grin.

One time, she asked him teasingly, "What did you think of me when we first met?" Norman finally confessed what was on his mind that fateful day long ago. "The moment I saw you... I knew it was you."

It was probably just sheer luck that brought them together in the chatrooms but Joy and Norman probably believe the chance encounter was written in the stars.

Indeed, finding true love is possible online but don't go chatting just to look for it. Finding someone special in the chat rooms is not much different from meeting him or her anyplace else. After all, as the saying goes, you can find love in the most unexpected places—including cyberspace.

E-mail the author at melissatelan @yahoo.com



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